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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVI, Issue No. 35

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2016 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune | 75¢

TO CURE PENSION PAYMENT BLEEDING:

Hocog signs emergency measures

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signed emergency measures into law late afternoon yesterday to absolve any dispute that the Settlement Fund might raise in preventing the disbursement of 25 percent pension checks to CNMI retirees.

Hocog

Hocog signed into law Public Law 19-35, PL 19-36, and Saipan Local Law 19-12.

This is what CNMI government leaders aimed for in introducing, amending, and signing into effect the three public laws this week that, among others,

See HOCOG on Page 4

PAL: We're here to stay

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Philippine Airlines assistant vice president Shiele Yuliong, area manager for Guam, CNMI and FSM Maryann Cabreros, and vice president for sales Ryan Uy visited Saipan to meet with tour agents. PAL will be offering direct flight services between Saipan and Manila starting June 15.

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Philippine Airlines, which will be offering direct flights between Manila and Saipan in June, said that they are "here to stay" and that they are hoping to increase the frequency of their flights should there be a demand.

» Airline will work to support tourism for CNMI and PH

Representatives from the Philippines' flag carrier visited Saipan this week to meet with the tour agents and inform them of the return of their services to the island.

"The feedback is very positive especially with our *kababayans* (countrymen). They find it really difficult to go back to our motherland because they need to stop somewhere else. With PAL soon launching direct flights, it will be much more convenient and we cut the travel time more than half," Ryan Uy told *Saipan Tribune* in a sit-down interview.

PAL used to offer the same direct flights in the '80s. About a year after talks to return with the services, PAL will now have its inaugural flight in June 15.

Using Airbus A-320 PAL will be offering a twice weekly full-service flights departing Manila every Wednesday and Sunday

See PAL on Page 4

CUC board OK's surcharge for commercial, govt accounts

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

Commercial and government customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be shouldering the needed funds for the utility company's capital improvement projects, should it be approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

» Economist.com warns board of high rates for other accounts in favor of 1 rate paying class

As the board reconvened yesterday, the majority of the CUC board of directors approved to include in its rate case application a surcharge that would fund—albeit partly—the needed capital improvement projects.

The surcharge would help them collect $5.2 million in two years—or $2.6 million a year—as opposed to what CUC management and consultant Economists.com earlier identified that CUC needs $5.2 million every year to improve its qual-

See CUC on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board and management continued discussing yesterday with their consultants the adjustment to their rates for the application they will file to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. The board approved yesterday a surcharge for commercial and government accounts, while another surcharge for all ratepayers was approved on Wednesday.

INSIDE

LOCAL

Bruce Castro Blanton Jr. believes so much in the natural musical talent of seven students from Tinian Junior and Senior High School that he wants them to join the 35th Flame Tree Arts Festival in April this year.

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LIFE & STYLE

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI held a Lunar New Year Gala last Sunday, Feb. 14, where around 300 of their members joined the celebration at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

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11 DAYS
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Local

9th Circuit dismisses SDLLC's appeal over $190.8M PPA

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has dismissed the appeal of Saipan Development LLC in connection with its lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over the voided $190.8-million sole-sourced power purchase agreement entered by then-governor Benigno R. Fitial and SDLLC.

The Ninth Circuit said SDLLC's appeal is voluntarily dismissed pursuant to the parties' stipulated motion.

The Ninth Circuit said the parties shall bear their own costs and fees on appeal.

The reason behind the parties' request to dismiss the appeal was not indicated in court documents.

SDLLC, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI in July 2014 that the company is appealing to the Ninth Circuit to reverse Chief Judge Ramona Manglona's order issued on June 24, 2014.

In the June 24, 2014 order, Manglona abstained from hearing SDLLC's lawsuit and granted CUC's motion to dismiss the suit with prejudice. Dismiss with prejudice means SDLLC cannot re-open the case.

SDLLC is the Delaware-based contractor of the controversial PPA that Fitial and then-attorney general Edward T. Buckingham inked on behalf of CUC.

SDLLC entered into a contract with CUC in 2012 to build a new power plant. That same year, lawmakers led by then-representative Janet Maratita filed a taxpayers' lawsuit in Superior Court against SDLLC and CUC to declare the contract invalid.

In January 2013, Buckingham's successor as attorney general informed SDLLC that the contract was legally invalid and void from the beginning.

Almost a year later, SDLLC sued CUC for breach of contract in federal court.

CUC then moved to dismiss the lawsuit, asserting that the decision of Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman to declare the PPA void from the beginning should preclude SDLLC's lawsuit in District Court.

The PPA was among the key issues comprising the articles of impeachment against Fitial. Facing impeachment, Fitial subsequently resigned as governor in February 2013. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Camacho is lone judge up for retention this year

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Norita Camacho will be the only one who is up for retention election this November.

Camacho was appointed to the bench in November 2011. His term expires in November 2017.

Under the CNMI Constitution, the question whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Camacho has yet to announce if he is interested to submit to the retention election.

At the November 2014 election, majority voted for the retention of Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

In 2003, Juan T. Lizama became the first judge in the CNMI to be retained on the bench.

Timothy H. Bellas and Virginia Onerheim-Sablan were the only former judges who were not retained. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Military submits new EIS timeline for live-fire project

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Defense expects to close an environmental review process for training on the islands of Tinian and Pagan by 2018, and eyes a release of revised training plans and impact studies in March of next year, according to a statement from Joint Region Marianas yesterday.

Military planners have focused, since a formal comment period closed last October, on nearly 30,000 comments from private citizens and U.S. federal and CNMI agencies on the proposed expansion of military training activities on Tinian and Pagan.

The Department of the Navy in October ordered a new round of studies on the heels of concerns from local and federal agencies like the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Given the amount of feedback from the community, it became clear early in the planning process that we needed to revise this study," said U.S. Pacific Command Deputy commander Gen. Anthony Crutchfield in the statement yesterday.

"Only through a revised EIS would we be able to address concerns from CNMI leadership and agencies for the best possible alternative," he said.

The Marine Corps Force Pacific, under the Navy, disclosed this month they had completed their studies on the Tinian groundwater aquifer, studies found lacking in the original environmental impact documents.

Jim Keany, director of Environmental Science Associates, told *Saipan Tribune* in an email that "robust" studies are "needed considering there are human health issues." ESA is consultant to the CNMI government on the military plans.

"In the time since comments were received by the Navy and now," Keany said, "there has hardly been time to read the comments and come up with a detailed study plan."

According to Keany, these robust studies would:

- Provide a baseline study of groundwater at sufficient number of sites to make valid statistical inferences.
- Be conducted over the course of a year to identify seasonal variations.
- Measure groundwater quality in light of EPA exposure thresholds for a variety of chemical that could have infiltrated during World War II use of munitions and from proposed action munitions.
- List chemicals in munitions and their dispersal rates to the ground (from similar studies).
- Include an analysis of potential chemicals reaching the groundwater based on accepted models or other studies.
- Have an analysis of effects to baseline water quality conditions.
- Have the resulting potential effects to natural resources and human health over the course of the proposed action (20 years? More?) based on standard epidemiological analysis practices.

The EPA, for their part, said in October that the highly permeable Marianas limestone, which underlies most of the military project area on Tinian and "creates high susceptibility to contamination, was not fully considered in the Navy's earlier studies.

» EIS consultant calls for 'robust' studies

The EPA withheld a rating of the military plans until further studies were done.

'Remain cognizant'

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said, in statement yesterday, that they are "genuinely pleased" that the Navy will listen to concerns from "our own people" and agencies.

"We remain cognizant that any military project on our islands may represent a threat to our economy, particularly, our tourism industry, which is driven by our environment and the natural beauty of these islands," the Torres administration said. "We look forward to continued and constructive dialogue with the Navy and are hopeful they reconsider their proposal."

Defense leaders are expected to sign a "Record of Decision," to close the formal environmental review process, in 2018, according to the JRM statement.

Another round of public comment and meetings will follow the release of the draft studies in March 2017.

The "public's input will significantly contribute to the refinement of the proposed activities," said Joint Region Marianas in its statement.

Military decision makers will also "consider all alternatives and their impacts before declaring a preferred alternative," they said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advance happy 48th birthday to the best mom, auntie, grandma, and friend. Jenny Palacios, happy birthday on Feb. 20. May your day be filled with love, happiness, and good health. We love you from all your children and grandchildren.

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Torres in DC, to attend dinner with Obama

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is in the nation's capital and will be attending a dinner with U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama next week Feb. 22, according to the Office of the Governor yesterday.

By invitation through the British Embassy and the National Governor's Association, officials will be discussing pertinent issues regarding the region. The National Governors Association (NGA) is the bipartisan organization of the nation's governors. Its members are the governors of the 55 states, territories, and commonwealths.

Torres is also meeting with the National Governor's Association and will be attending the 35th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting.

The NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with access to Capitol Hill officials to present policy initiatives to federal counterparts in the Obama Administration.

"Through NGA, governors share best practices, speak with a collective voice on national policy, and develop innovative solutions that improve state government and support the principles of federalism," the Office of the Governor said in a statement yesterday. "Through NGA, governors identify priority issues and deal collectively with matters of public policy and governance at the state and national levels."

"In order to progress on issues affecting the people of the Commonwealth and ensure the security of the people, the economy and our environment, I will be addressing the nation's leaders and strive for continued dialogue and representation," Torres said in the statement. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

PAL

From Page 1

at 9:20pm and arriving on Saipan at 3:35am local time the following day. Flights will depart Saipan every Thursday and Monday at 4:35am local time and arrive in Manila at 6:45am.

"And it's not only Manila, we can bring our *kababayans* to the entire Philippines because PAL does have 29 domestic destinations," Uy said.

Uy said the departure and arrival times are perfect for travelers to maximize their travel time as it matches with most of the domestic flights in the Philippines. PAL said it allows two pieces of baggage even to domestic flights of 50 lbs each.

Tourism for both countries

In Guam, PAL area manager for Guam, CNMI and FSM Maryann Cabreros, said that they are doing very well.

"From five, now we're daily. We upgraded our aircraft from airbus 320 to 321 which is a 198-seater," Cabreros said.

Asked if daily flights would also be a possibility for Saipan, Uy said "why not?"

"If we can capture the entire Asian market and bring them to Saipan, I think it's possible. There's a lot of work to be done, and support from the government as well," Uy said.

Uy added that if the visa waiver program or parole authority will also be given to Filipinos as well as other Asians such as Thais and Indonesians, it would result in an increase in arrivals.

PAL said it is looking at increasing their frequency.

"We're here to stay. We look forward to increasing our frequency if the demand is there. We can only do that if we get the support of our countrymen and also if we can get the support of all the locals to visit our beautiful country, the Philippines, and use Manila as a hub to Asia, China, Australia, Middle East, Europe, and even Canada," Uy said.

"Manila is a perfect hub area. As you know PAL does have its own terminal, very convenient, and with the casino resorts that have been opening lately, it can give an easy stopover option for Manila before going to their final destination in Asia," he added.

To contribute to tourism on both destinations, PAL is working with both the Philippines' Department of Tourism and CNMI's Marianas Visitors Authority.

"We're looking forward to the support of the Department of Tourism. We will be inviting them to do a roadshow here on Saipan because we need to educate the market. We need to let them know how beautiful the Philippines is," Uy said. "Likewise, we met with the Marianas Visitors Authority and they're very supportive. They're committed to help us promote Saipan in the Philippines as well as in the nearby Asian countries."

Uy said they are hoping for better outcome of their venture.

"If I may quote Jerry Tan, we came in at the right timing because the economy on Saipan is good, the economy is strong and the tourists are coming to Saipan, picking up very strong. We hope to realize all those opportunities," Uy said.

PAL partnered with Century Travel as its general sales agent in the CNMI.

"We know how efficient Tan Holdings is in terms of their businesses on Saipan. Every new operations, we need to have very reliable and dependable partners and I think there is no other partner in Saipan that can do it than the Tan Holdings group because they can also handle both inbound and outbound," Uy said.

Until Feb. 29, PAL has a promo rate of $480 roundtrip airfare for flights from June onwards.

"We're calling on all our *kababayans* to give their support to Philippine Airlines. We know they always look forward to visit the Philippines and visit their families. We are here to help them make that happen in a more convenient, more efficient, and more affordable way," Uy said.

HOCOG

From Page 1

provides $1.8 million to the Department of Finance to pay these pensioners, removes any doubt that the CNMI governor has the authority to reprogram Executive Branch funds for these pension payments, and allows taxes earmarked to the NMI Retirement Fund to be also used for these pension payments, respectively.

The Settlement Fund dispute has, for the most part, unified Capitol Hill officials in a rush to cure the delay in payments to pensioners.

The Fund's returned check last Friday left over 3,000 retirees bereft of their 25 percent pension payments. The Fund disputed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' reprogramming of funds as "not appropriate," said the funds serve no "public purpose," and asked for an "authorized appropriation."

Hocog, speaking to House lawmakers during an emergency session yesterday, said the administration held a conference with Trustee Joyce Tang on Wednesday afternoon and after asked the Senate to postpone its session to work on amendments on the bills that the House passed earlier, in another emergency session, that day.

Hocog said he hoped to sign the bills and that these action would resolve the issue so that the Fund would "hopefully discharge the 25 percent benefits to our pensioners."

The House passed the bills yesterday; in the third emergency session it had held this week.

The House passed amendments that senators had tacked on during their emergency session held nighttime Wednesday.

Senators, Ways and Means committee chair Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), a representative from the Attorney's General's Office, and Finance Secretary Larissa Larson hammered out the amendments in the Senate president's room throughout the afternoon Wednesday.

"We had a lot of questions and we wanted to make sure we get further clarification," said Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) last night.

"We were concerned on how and why we got here, what—if any, present, and future services will be affected on the usage of NMI Retirement funds, 25 percent pension responsibility, budget act concerns, and so on," Igisomar said.

"Although we may have agreed to a policy on a supplemental source of funds and authorization processes, this will only alleviate the immediate future, he said, adding they must be more "vigilant" in their commitment in the future with increased or additional payments toward all retirees—covered under the settlement agreement or not.

Igisomar, a former chair of the Fund, added they must also commit to the 75 percent pension payment "to avoid or suppress" an "inevitable corpus avalanche. "

Igisomar said he understands the position of the Trustee Ad Litem, Joyce Tang.

"The wellbeing of the retirees and our social economic prosperity are inseparable," he said.

"We will be working and monitoring closely with the Secretary of Finance on all revenue source and allocation of payments for the retirees to project and plan accordingly.

'Disappointed'

After passing the emergency measures yesterday morning, Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said the pension issue "sheds light" on the "legal role and standing of the" NMI Settlement Fund "as the rightful agency to disburse" in its disbursement of the 25 percent benefits.

He said 25 percent benefit payment "should not be comingled with the issue of the settlement agreement."

This would pave the way for retirees' 25 percent benefits to be "held hostage questionably."

Demapan wants to "clarify the role" of the NMI Retirement Fund "as it is separate form the Settlement Fund" and sought his colleagues' support to take a look at this.

Vice speaker Joseph Deleon Guerreo (Ind-Saipan), for his part, expressed disappointment with the trustee ad litem.

"We are jumping through hoops…holding back-to-back sessions" in order to "clarify what I feel is [Tang's] misunderstanding of our laws," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said "pensions were hostaged."

"If she feels there is any ambiguity," Deleon Guerrero encouraged Tang to "please check with our authorities, before she hostages our retirees' pensions."

Deleon Guerrero pointed to the matter of hours the government was informed that the checks were not going to be released "with no advance notice to the pensioners themselves" last Friday.

"That is not acceptable," Deleon Guerrero said. "They don't deserve that."

"We will jump through hoops, bend over backwards" but "I ask her to please communicate with our government before taking such drastic actions," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CUC

From Page 1

ity of service.

Director Joe Torres motioned for the board to approve to include in their commercial and government accounts only, a surcharge that would get $5.2 million over a two-year period.

Chair Adelina Roberto, vice chair Eric San Nicolas, and directors Albert Taitano and Ignacio Perez who were present at the meeting voted yes. Directors Dave Sablan and Chris Concepcion were absent from the meeting.

Prior to the casting of votes, San Nicolas raised a "concern" for Concepcion who wasn't there.

"I know, colleague Concepcion is probably going to go against this," San Nicolas said, "What I'm saying is, because, it's at the commercial so that includes his company."

Initially, Economists.com recommended to the board to add a $0.027 per kWh surcharge to all its customers to have $5,219,265 for non grant-funded capital project requirement in a year.

However, the board did not heed the recommendation, as they did not want the residential customers—the 35 percent of its customers—to shoulder the improvement projects.

Because of this however, a significant increase will be made to the bill of commercial and government accounts.

No exact surcharge figure was given yesterday, but since only 65 percent of CUC's customer will be paying for it, it was said to go high.

Adding on to this is a $0.015 surcharge for all customers that the board approved on Wednesday for the $3 million it needs for disaster recovery.

CUC's rate consultants and director Sablan earlier warned other board members of burdening other accounts in favor of and somehow subsidize the other rate-paying class.

The high rate, Economists.com said, could result to forcing some people to go out of business.

"You don't want to charge the commercial and government accounts more, then keep the residential rates where they are. You are to create a very strong protest from our commercial accounts," Sablan said during the Wednesday meeting.

As the board also moved on Wednesday to withdraw their April 2015 rate case application that sets a uniform rate of $0.069 to all residential customers, their per kilowatt hour charges will stay on its current rates—a move different from their consultant's recommendation.

As the only two surcharges were approved to be included in their rate case application that will be submitted in March, it is not clear what will happen to CUC's other needs such as $1.5 million to recover from the settlement agreement with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and increase in bad debts and the $1.2 million debt payment to the CDA.

Sablan earlier expressed that the board need to address these items, particularly the debt to CDA, so that they could improve their credit status and be able to be approved for better loans in the future should a need arise.

During the meeting, chief financial officer Matt Yaquinto also expressed that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is looking at what CUC is doing to improve its own system in order to get additional funding such as 100 percent reimbursement and other mitigation projects.

As the discussion for one surcharge item lasted almost five hours, the board will again have a special meeting that is initially set on a Saturday, Feb. 27, to discuss other matters on their agenda.

This would be the board's fourth meeting this month, including a personnel and operations committee meeting held earlier this week where at least five members of the board were present.

Commonwealth visitor arrivals level in January

Visitors arrivals to the CNMI were level in January 2016 compared to January 2015. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 46,011 visitors in January 2016, compared to 45,688 visitors received in January 2015.

Arrivals from China nearly doubled in the month, rising 48 percent compared to January 2015 to reach 20,615 visitors. With new flights from Tianjin, Shenyang, and Jinan operated by Dynamic Airways at the beginning of January, as well as a new flight from Hangzhou to Saipan operated by Century Tours, continued rapid growth from the China market is projected for the coming year as the MVA's promotions penetrate deeper into secondary markets of China which until now have been largely untapped. The MVA is working with key regional travel agents in the above secondary markets to carry out a range of marketing programs to continue to boost market demand.

Arrivals from Korea dropped 19 percent in January to 17,125 visitors. The decrease is attributed to the fact that Asiana Airlines suspended its morning flight in June 2015 and also cut its charter flight in February 2015; both flights were operating in January 2015. The MVA has been working with EASTAR JET, Korea's low cost carrier on the launch of new daily service to Saipan from July using a B737-800 with 189 seats from Incheon to Saipan. This new flight launch will ensure a continuing rapid increase in arrivals from Korea to the NMI in the second half of the year.

Arrivals from Japan fell 34 percent to 5,473 visitors as the NMI continued to feel the effect of Delta Air Lines cutting its Narita to Saipan night flight in October, a move that dropped airlift from the Japan market to just one daily flight. In January, the MVA and Delta began a series of joint promotions including a series of FAM tours for top Japan travel agents, as well as co-op promotions with all major Japanese travel agencies including a series of retail campaigns, seminars, and online promotions designed to convince Delta to re-launch the Narita night flight. In addition, the MVA has been approaching all low-cost carriers to secure the launch of new flights from Japan to the NMI this year. ***(PR)***

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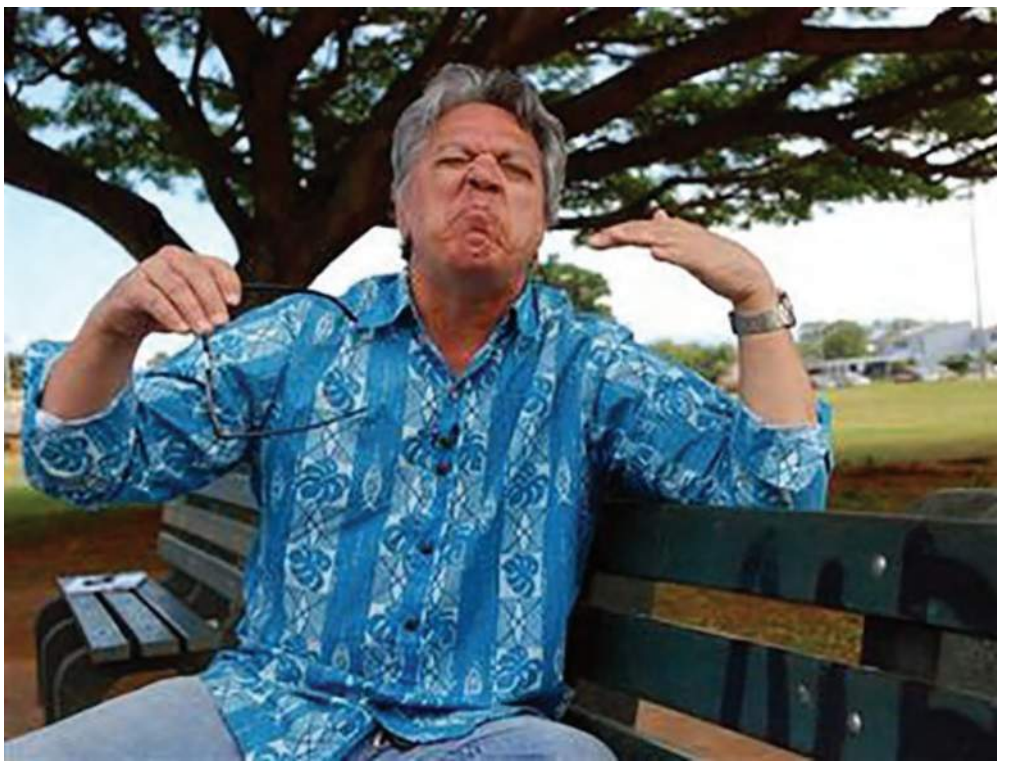
Data inspires pride for Pidgin, the language of Hawaii

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILILANI, Hawaii (AP)— When Hawaii comedian Andy Bumatai was searching for a new way to attract the attention of audiences on the Internet, his wife suggested he find inspiration in something from the old days: Pidgin, the language of his youth.

Her idea came after news reports on census data showed the number of speakers in the islands who said they spoke Pidgin, a mix of the languages spoken by Hawaiian, Filipino, Chinese, Puerto Rican and other workers who toiled in the state's sugar plantations.



AP
In this Jan. 28, 2016 photo, comedian Andy Bumatai gestures during an interview in Mililani, Hawaii. News reports on census data showing the number of Pidgin speakers in Hawaii have helped spark a sense of pride among those who speak the language in their homes.

Bumatai put up some videos online doing his routines in Pidgin, and one with English subtitles got 1.5 million views. He said his videos resonated with those who grew up in Hawaii and were homesick for the sounds of the language.

It is "more than a language. It's become a lexicon that congeals the people who are from Hawaii," he said.

The news reports last fall helped spark a sense of pride among those who speak the language in their homes and among friends, and a discussion about its use and the stigma that limits its wider acceptance in the state.

There are other pidgins in other parts of the world, including in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Pidgin in Hawaii, or Hawaii Creole English, has long been considered a substandard form of English. Some saw the census numbers as recognition for the language, though the U.S. Census isn't in the business of recognizing languages. Census officials have been counting Pidgin since 1990.

Christine Gambino, a survey statistician at the agency, said with more people knowing that it's acceptable to write down Pidgin on the federal questionnaires, future data will be more reflective of an accurate number of speakers. Many who speak Pidgin believe there are far more speakers than the 1,600 counted in the census surveys.

While Pidgin may sound like mixed-up English because English words provide a large portion of Pidgin vocabulary, it has its own grammar and sound system, said Kent Sakoda, who teaches a course about Pidgin at the University of Hawaii.

Native Hawaiians, Chinese and Portuguese had the most influence on Pidgin structure because they were the earliest plantation laborers. Pidgin borrows phrases from various other languages. "The house is big" in Pidgin, for example, is "big, da house," which borrows from Hawaiian sentence structure.

One of Cantonese's influences is evident in the Pidgin word "get," which means both "has" and "have," as well as both "there is" and "there are." ''Para," for in Portuguese, influenced how Pidgin speakers use "for" in places where English uses "to."

Pidgin has flourished as the voice of Hawaii long after the end of the plantation era.

"You're ranked as to how local you are with how much you understand and are able to speak," Bumatai said.

TV station Hawaii News Now posted to Facebook a mock traffic report in Pidgin by reporter Lacy Deniz.

See DATA on Next Page

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC doing business as Best Sunshine International respectfully announces the upcoming Public Hearing to present the laboratory results and to receive comments on the proposed sites to inter the artifacts and remains found at the Garapan site during the 2015 Archaeological Project.

Public Hearing # 1

February 23, 2015
6-8 pm
Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe

Public Hearing # 2

February 24, 2015
6-8 pm
Chaha Oceanview Middle School
Kagman

The public hearing will be conducted pursuant to the following rules:

1. All questions posed and comments made will be done in a respectful manner
2. Everyone is welcome to provide comments, however, all comments made at the public hearing will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Anyone wishing to provide additional comments or if anyone anticipates their comments will take longer than 3 minutes are encouraged to submit it in writing to the Historic Preservation Office.

Camacho renewed as CUC acting executive director

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. renewed Gary Camacho's term as the acting executive director for the utilities company.

Board chair Adelina Roberto said they extended Camacho's term to 60 more days effective Feb. 6.

Camacho was given the position after Water and Waste Water Division chief engineer John Riegel's term as acting executive director ended in December.

Riegel became acting after Alan Fletcher resigned from the position last June.

According to Camacho, the position has been challenging.

"It's a little bit challenging but like everything else there are adjustments that needed to be made," Camacho said.

Asked if they currently have applicants, Roberto said they don't.

"We're revisiting the application process," Roberto said.

"We are pursuing of course the [executive director] and the [deputy executive director]. We'll advertise that soon and hopefully we'll get someone qualified for it and get them on board," Camacho said.

The two said positions are among the vacant senior management positions required under Stipulated Order No. 1.

During last month's board meeting, Camacho reported to the board that they have chosen an individual for drinking water and wastewater division manager—another SO1 position requirement.

Another SO position which is the "petroleum and compliance manager," also known as technical manager for oil, was recently filled by CUC after Maximino Simian was hired for the position.

DATA

From Page 6

Hawaii viewers were enthusiastic, while some outside the state thought it made her sound uneducated, she said.

In "Kapakahi Traffic," Deniz refers to a stalled motorist as "uncle" and roadside assistance workers as "braddahs." Her intonation is characteristically Pidgin, her grammar and vocabulary accurate: "We goin' have choke students out on da roadway tryin' fo get to school, makin' their classes ... It's gonna be supa busy."

"We knew that majority people here in Hawaii, it's something they connect to," she said.

Colbert Matsumoto, chairman of Island Insurance, Hawaii's largest locally owned insurance company, said he doesn't always speak Pidgin in the "downtown circle" he operates in. Sometimes he lets himself fall into the ease of Pidgin.

"I always thought that Pidgin was something of value," said Matsumoto, who grew up on Lanai, which can feel a world away from downtown Honolulu. "It made me feel grounded."

Mike McCartney, chief of staff for Gov. David Ige, said he's proud of his ability to speak Pidgin.

"To me it's part of who we are as a people, place and culture," said McCartney, whose father was an English teacher and would correct him when he spoke Pidgin. McCartney said now he can turn Pidgin on and off fluidly, as many others do.

Former Hawaii Gov. Ben Cayetano worries about those who can't switch back and forth.

"Hawaii kids are at a distinct disadvantage if they can't speak standard English," he said. "My first year in college on the mainland, I hardly said anything in class ... I was concerned about whether my English would be good enough."

The stigma against speaking Pidgin is strong, despite moments of pride, said Lee Tonouchi, an author and activist who calls himself the "Da Pidgin Guerrilla." He makes it a point to only speak Pidgin.

To him, until the state university system starts offering degrees in Pidgin or if Pidgin joins Hawaiian and English as the state's official languages, the language will never gain any true respect.

"I tink still get stigma," he said. "For me, I tink da goal always goin' be fo Pidgin to get institutionalized recognitions."

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High hopes for Tinian's Natural Hi

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TINIAN—Bruce Castro Blanton Jr. believes so much in the natural musical talent of seven students from Tinian Junior and Senior High School that he wants them to join the 35th Flame Tree Arts Festival in April this year.

"We are trying to raise funds so they could perform in this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival. Our goal is to reach $640 for the plane tickets, so far we are almost there," said Blanton Jr., who acts as the musical director of the group.

Called Natural Hi, the band is composed of sisters Kimberly (vocals and drums) and Karen Joy Lagunay (vocals), Pia Dela Cruz (vocals), Sophia Cruz (band leader and guitar), Anthony "Ton" Cabrera (bassist), Gareth Jumao-as (singer/rapper), and Romeo Shrestha (piano/keboard). Kimberly is the only senior in the group while the rest are sophomores.

"They are all natural-born musicians. Kimberly for example learned how to play drums in two weeks, while Ton easily transitioned in playing base after he already knew how to play the guitar. Gareth writes his own rap. That's why, I believe in these kids and I hope more people get the chance to hear them play and sing," said Blanton Jr.

The band, which performed for two nights during the Pika Festival, was only formed in December during the Christmas break. Blanton Jr. approached them after hearing them sing while on school. The band played for the first time during the New Year's Eve festivities at Natibu Park on Tinian.

JON PEREZ
Musical adviser Bruce Castro Blanton Jr., back left, joins five of the Natural Hi members at the back of their booth at the 2016 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival last weekend at the Kammer Beach Grounds on Tinian.

"I heard how talented they are and so I asked them if they wanted to form a group. They are all members of the TJSHS music club, they decided to form the band and picked the name Natural Hi. Natural because they have natural talents and Hi, because they are still in junior and high schools," said Blanton Jr.

"They are new but motivated and willing to learn. Being a former of a band myself, I'm just here to guide them and help them overcome stage fright," added the science teacher at TJSHS.

The band will again headline a free community concert at Natibu Park on March 17 in an event organized by the Micronesia Youth Services and Network and in May for the San Jose Fiesta on Tinian.

"Whatever money we raised will be used by the students. We are also hoping to secure a sponsor for our hotel so the only thing that we need to fundraise is for the airplane tickets. So far, we are almost there on our target, thanks to various sponsors which gave money or things that we sold in the [Hot] Pepper Festival," added Blanton.

Sweet Escape donated 100 cookies, which they sold with all the money going to their fund, while TJSHS math teacher Vince Aguon gave T-shirts and they got 50 percent share on the proceeds.

Mixed martial arts practitioner Frank "The Crank" Camacho also gave a donation while his Blanton Jr.'s wife, Reena, sold personalized stickers. Their three dogs—a German Shepherd, a Poodle, and a Golden Retriever—also had their share as they charged a minimal fee for those who want to pet or have their photo taken.

"We are also hoping to get the chance to play in Guam during the summer break, that's part of our goal, and then, in parts of California," added Blanton Jr.

Joshua Castro, a cousin of Blanton Jr., also helped with the ZosZengZung's Pika Fest Fundraiser along with Trench Tech, Atdit/Trendsetters, Poksu'/Marianas Built, Boarderline Surf and Skate Shop, Ginen Marianas, J's Restaurant, The Undeniable Clothing, Star Marianas Air, and performers Nikkie Ayuyu, Fakiezero, and Pozzy-D.

NMI Thespians earn superior ratings in Texas

The four-member CNMI Thespian junior team earned superior ratings in the International Thespian Society competition held over the weekend in Denison, Texas.

The team is composed of Jonathan Wolf of Dandan Middle School in the monologue category, Hopwood Junior High School's Bonie Gio Sagana in solo musical theater, and the pair of Nehemiah Fernandez and Lovely Mae Mariano of San Antonio Middle School in duet acting.

All three entries received top ratings with Fernandez and Mariano asked to perform again in the National Individual Events Showcase on Sunday.

Marilyn Mendoza (HJHS), Maria Mettao (SAMS), Kristine Wolf (DDMS), and Andy Golden of Saipan Southern High School were the chaperone coaches of the CNMI's four junior thespians.

The team spent almost a week in Texas after arriving on Dallas on Wednesday, Feb. 10. They spent the first day by visiting a park for some relaxation.

They rehearsed the following day where they also visited the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

They arrived in Denniso, Texas, the festival site on Friday. They went to their first workshop after registering.

They got invited to participate in another workshop and the final showcase after getting Golden Tickets. ***(Jon Perez)***

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Local businesses come to SCfA's aid

Two more local businesses have come to Saipan Cares for Animals' aid with Atkins-Kroll Toyota and White Coconut Computer Services becoming the latest companies that donated money to help fund the daily operations of the volunteers at the animal shelter in Lower Base.

Both companies made corporate donations to join a growing list of sponsors that has been helping SCfA. AK Toyota vice president Doug Brennan and White Coconut owner Bud White presented the checks to SCfA president Jason Hudy.

"It's great that these companies have stepped up and made a commitment to help the animals in need on Saipan. Their contributions will go directly toward helping us stock the mediation needed to treat animals who are admitted to the Saipan Animal Shelter," said Hudy.

"Dogs [and cats] that come in with mange, ticks, or other diseases and might not get the treatment they need to alleviate their suffering will now get the help they need, because businesses like these have stepped up and decided to help," he added.

Hudy said SCfA has always been thankful for the companies and individuals that have been supporting them in their mission to humanely control the animal population on Saipan.

He added they just want to inform the community of the various donors that have been helping them out and at the same time keep the SCfA in the public eye.

Dogs and cats are always available for adoption, while volunteers are still needed to help socialize with the animals at the shelter.

For more information, visit SaipanCaresforAnimals.com or check their Facebook page facebook.com/Saipancares or email Hudy at Jason@Jason-Hudy.com.

Saipan Cares for Animals president Jason Hudy, center, receives a check from Atkins-Kroll vice president Doug Brennan and sales associate Curtis Dancoe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Justices hear appeal of man who got 30 years for sex abuse

The CNMI Supreme Court heard on Wednesday the appeal of a 54-year-old man who was slapped with a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison for sexually abusing a then-16-year-old girl in 2009.

After listening to the counsels' arguments, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos placed defendant Alfredo E. Reyes' appeal under advisement.

Attorney Vincent J. Seman argued for defendant Reyes. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

In his appeal, Reyes asked the Supreme Court to reverse his conviction and his sentence for three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and three counts of assault and battery and remand this matter to the Superior Court for a new trial.

In the alternative, Reyes asked the high court for resentencing, and any other such relief that the court deems proper and necessary.

Seman presented the issue whether Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho erred by failing to give substantive instructions to the jury concerning the elements of the charges against Reyes upon completion of the evidentiary phase of the trial.

Seman also raised the issue whether Camacho abused his discretion and failed to sufficiently articulate his justifications for the sentence imposed on Reyes after he denied defendant's request for a presentence investigation report.

On Dec. 13, 2013, a jury convicted Reyes of three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. Camacho found the defendant guilty of three counts of assault and battery.

On Jan. 22, 2014, Camacho slapped Reyes with a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment, without the possibility of parole or early release.

Camacho said he imposed the maximum sentence so that Reyes and others who sexually abuse children will be justly punished and deterred. He said his court will hear children who seek protection from sexual abuse.

In Reyes' appeal, Seman said Camacho erred by prematurely reading the elements of the charges against the defendant as part of the jury instructions to the jury only at the beginning of the proceedings, prior to the introduction of any evidence, prior to certain counts being ultimately dismissed, and prior to jury deliberation of the remaining charges.

Seman said ultimately Camacho did not read the jury substantive instructions after all the evidence had been presented.

"The purpose of providing jury instructions at the close of evidence is to afford the jury with the relevant legal principles and to avoid any perceived conflicts from prior jury instructions," said Seman in defendant's pleadings.

Seman said such failure to provide definitive instructions after the close of proof deprived his client of his right to due process and violated NMI Rule of Criminal Procedure 30.

"As a result of this error, Mr. Reyes' conviction should be vacated and remanded for retrial," he said.

Seman said the high court should reverse the sentence because Camacho abused his discretion by failing to provide sufficient record of his denial of a request for a presentence investigation.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda was the one who filed the government's opposition to the appeal.

In the government's brief, Cepeda said the government concedes that Camacho erred by failing to read the substantive jury instructions after the close of the evidence.

However, Cepeda said, Reyes has not demonstrated that the judge's error affected his substantial rights and he has not shown how the error changed the outcome of the trial.

Cepeda said for good reason, the judge's failure to read the substantive jury instructions at the close of evidence does not require a reversal of defendant's convictions.

Cepeda said the government also concedes that Camacho abused his discretion by failing to order a presentence investigation.

Thus, she said, the trial court has no record to show how it fashioned a careful and individualized sentence for Reyes.

Cepeda said given the trial court's failure to order a presentence investigation report, the government concedes that Reyes' sentence should be vacated and this matter should be remanded to the trial court to order a presentence investigation report and resentence the defendant.

According to the prosecution, Reyes sexually abused the girl at Laulau Beach in May 2009, at Coral Ocean Point beach in September 2009, and in the jungle area near Hawaiian Rock Co. in December 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Judge finds probable cause to charge robbery suspect

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found probable cause to charge a 25-year-old man over a robbery in Susupe, where a teenager was injured after he was dragged 50 feet away from the suspect's car.

At a preliminary hearing on Tuesday afternoon, Camacho found probable cause to believe that Benjamin Bok Lee may have committed the crimes of robbery and assault and battery.

Camacho, however, did not find probable cause to charge Lee with the crimes of robbery involving dangerous weapon, and assault with dangerous weapon. The judge dismissed the charges.

Arraignment will be on Feb. 22 at 9am.

After the hearing, Lee was remanded into the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Michael Sato served as counsel for Lee.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that the victim, a 17-year-old Korean, suffered a 4-inch laceration on his right hip and that his Galaxy Samsung cellphone worth $1,000 was stolen.

Pangelinan said according to the victim, he was standing by Smile Poker in Susupe waiting for his friend when a brown Santa Fe vehicle stopped along Texas Road and the operator, Lee, was saying something to him in the afternoon of Feb. 15.

The victim walked to the driver's window and asked Lee what was he saying. Lee asked him if he could use his phone, but the teenager refused.

Lee allegedly grabbed the victim's hand that was holding the phone into the window and sped off. After driving 50 feet, Lee released the victim's arm, causing him to fall to the ground.

During follow-up investigation, police officers spotted the vehicle and arrested Lee later that same afternoon. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WSR PTSA Family Fun night today

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Parents Teachers and Students Association of the William S. Reyes Elementary School is inviting everyone to join them in today's Family Fun Night on the campus grounds. The fundraising event starts at 4:30pm and ends at 9:30pm.

PTSA president Ed Arriola and treasurer See Cabrera said proceeds from the annual event would help fund school repairs and other needed projects. Ray Austin is the PTSA vice president, while Calle Eichenberger is the secretary.

"It is a public event and we are inviting everyone to come out and join us for a night of entertainment, food, music, and raffle prizes," said Cabrera.

Admission is free and no cash purchases are allowed, instead cash could be exchanged for tickets in an assigned booth for you to be able to purchase items and join the raffle. Dora The Explorer, Whimsy The Rabbit, and Po The Panda will also be joining the fun and games.

Arriola said one of their projects is to build a special waiting area to ensure the safety of the kids with WSR being one of the most heavily populated elementary schools on the island. He said that they are trying to avoid any abduction incident that could happen in any school.

"We are trying to meet a lot of goals for this year and one of them is to build a special waiting area for parents in the north, central, and south wings of the school. WSR is a heavily populated school so we want to make sure the kids are safe," said Arriola.

He even recalled last year's incident involving a group that approached some WSR students to follow them after school, which in turn was a social experiment project for their school. The incident created quite a stir in the community.

"It was only a social experiment but it was really alarming. There has to be a segregated location between students, their parents, and people who are not part of the school. Teachers and staff could not watch the kids all the time, so to prevent that from happening is to have a designated waiting area," Arriola added.

"So nobody can just wander around the school premises. It is much safer for everyone since there's an area where the kids will go to meet their parents, who are waiting for them there. It will be secured and comfortable, plus there would always people in that area and you could see everyone."

Arriola said WSR is one of the highest-rated elementary schools on Saipan. "The students there are great, and the teachers and staff are all dedicated with their jobs just like all public schools on the island."

Parent leadership workshop this Saturday at Chacha

The 2016 National Parent Leadership Month ends tomorrow with a Parent Leadership Development Workshop at Chacha Oceanview Middle School. The event will be held from 7:30am to 3pm.

The highlight of the day is recognizing and awarding the 2016 Parent Leaders. A total of 40 were nominated from various public and private schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Last year's parent-nominee Luis Camacho and Jymma Pamintuan will deliver their welcoming remarks and inspirational message after the registration and Posting of Colors.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura Ogumoro and Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan will lead the parent nominee recognition along with Camacho, Junnie Masga, and Maria Olopai.

Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence executive director Maisie B. Tenorio will then discuss the issue on teen dating violence, while Jesse Ramon, of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, will talk about disaster preparedness after the morning break.

Ayuda Network, Inc. executive director Diane Camacho will be discussing about the Commonwealth Respite Service Program, while Project Care coordinator Ana B. Ada, of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's Community Guidance Center, will talk on the system of care and child mental health.

Psychologist and project manager Debra Brown Lee will give a lecture on suicidal ideation and suicidal self-harm behavior, while a parent involvement group activity will follow led by Rita Castro, a national certified parent group facilitator.

Teresita Masga, a 2016 Parent Leader nominee, will give her closing remarks after the presentation of certificates. ***(Jon Perez)***

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Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Latin American women especially defenseless against Zika

Now that researchers have identified a tangible link between the Zika virus and fetal brain deformation, pregnant women and those of childbearing age in the Latin American countries hardest hit by the mosquito-borne virus will have to make tough decisions about their reproductive future. Use birth control? Abstain? Abort if there's evidence of potentially lethal birth defects?

Or at least that's how it ought to go.

In reality, women in many Latin American countries have almost as little control over their bodies as they do the weather. They are subject to rampant sexual violence, have received little or no sex education and may have limited access to birth control. When they do get pregnant, abortion is illegal in most countries, though some have exceptions in cases of rape, fetal impairment or danger to the life of the mother. In El Salvador the strictures are particularly harsh. There are no legal abortions, and women may go to jail for the "crime" of suffering miscarriage.

These realities make the paltry governmental response in El Salvador and like-minded countries—warning women not to get pregnant until the Zika crisis is over—all the more ludicrous. Just how does it help to scare women while offering no tools or information? It's unrealistic, and even irresponsible, to expect women to somehow stave off pregnancy when birth control isn't an option and rape is widespread. Although condoms are easily accessible, they can be unaffordable to poor women. Emergency contraceptives are even pricier or, in the case of Honduras, banned outright.

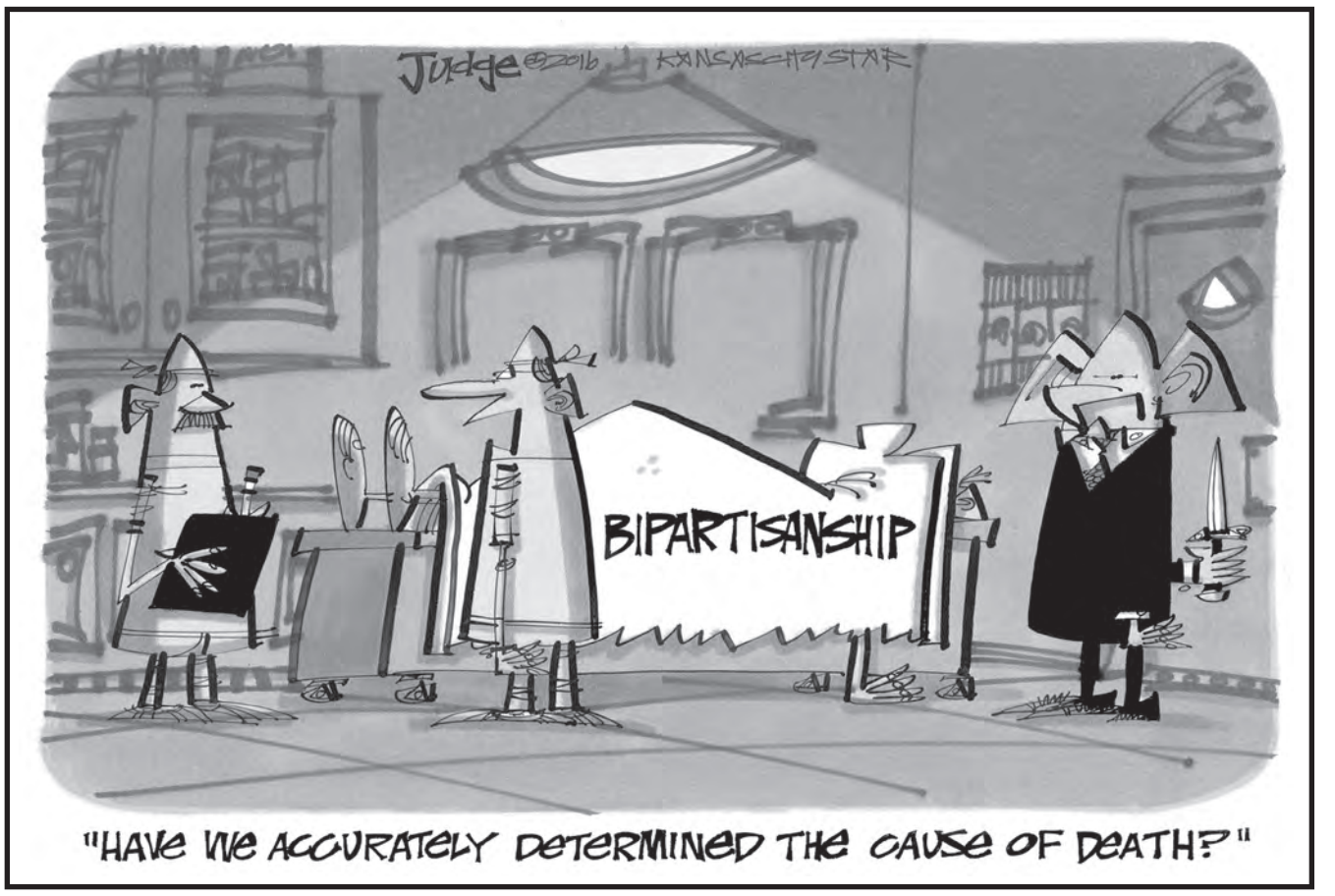
The World Health Organization declared Zika an international public health threat Feb. 1 based on its "explosive" spread throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. At the time, medical experts strongly suspected that the virus was implicated in microcephaly in more than 4,000 newborns in Brazil and feared that might be related to an uptick in another neurological condition, Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Since then, the evidence connecting Zika to microcephaly has mounted. Last week researchers in Slovenia confirmed microcephaly, brain injury and the Zika virus in the brain of a fetus whose mother had gotten pregnant while in Brazil. This week, researchers in Brazil said they found the virus in the brains of two infants with microcephaly who died just hours after birth. More studies will be needed before the Zika connection is certain, but it's not looking good.

Complicating the unfolding crisis is the assertion by a group of Argentine physicians that the rash of microcephaly cases is due to a larvicide, pyriproxyfen, used to control mosquitoes. Though there's not a shred of scientific evidence that this is the case, the Brazilian government has stopped spraying, which may only worsen the Zika epidemic in that country.

Even before this new evidence came to light, the United Nation's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights called on Latin American countries to repeal their policies restricting reproductive rights and give women the help they need to avoid pregnancy if they wish. It fell on deaf ears. With a stronger link established, other voices must join in the effort

See LATIN on Page 13



Kitty and the snake

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Pussy to our children is the young cat, so cuddly, that we raised one in the den before we let it loose into the yard, and the wild. Children are fond of the "bunny," the young rabbit that hops to their delight before letting it out to the field. The yapping "puppy" learns to bark and grow up to "woof."

Among Germans, the word for the snake is "slange," which in Yiddish is "shlang," and among cab drivers in New York City, "schlong," the short protrusion that is the male gender's "thingy in the beddy." Michael Jackson is known for grabbing his on stage, now a standard rapper gesture.

In one of The Donald's rallies, a woman in the crowd shouted that presidentiable Cruz was a "pussy." The Donald was delighted to repeat the characterization. That puts the former governor in the same league as Hillary in the mouthing range of The Donald. In 2008, after Hillary lost the primary to Obama, The Donald according to a Miami news, had the tycoon say: "She was favored to win and she got schlonged. She lost."

"Pussy" and "schlong," of themselves, are not particularly offensive words, but differing use in usage often gives it less than noble connotation. Which, of course, only confirms what we say all along (learned from the German Philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein), that the meaning of a word is not in the dictionary but on its use.

A neighbor in Canada in the winter, when I lived there, waited for husband to come home as the clock already struck 2, fearful that he might have gone off the road in the blizzard. She watched as her husband staggered through the door drunk. Hands on waist, she stood up and hollered: "Will you get that damn door closed."

The delivery of the line determined her meaning, not particularly the open damn door, or the coldness coming in, but her displeasure over the fact that she waited and worried that he might have gotten stuck on the road home only to see him drunk; evidently, he whiled the time away at the local tavern, presumably, with the boys, and by his clothes' smell, not too distant from leaning perfumed ladies!

The Donald, with his colorful language, talks like a New Yorker from the Bronx, though in this case, Trump lives midtown on the Eastside, within easy distance to fanciful 5th and Park Avenues, Broadway, and the UN. That he sounds rude is without question; that he is rude by design is conceded, the political purpose clear.

I remember spending sometime on the Westside of Chicago in a predominantly black community engaged in a Human Development Project. Talking to the local residents, their responses were littered with the "f" word uttered staccato every other chance a speaker gets a turn to speak. It was just the way they talked, like, um-m-m-m, among students, *nigga* in China, and *yong kuan* in 'Pinas.

The media is agog over The Donald for the quality of the language he seems to relish. He attracts a lot of folks as their familiar vocabulary is finally hitting the fan, and they are rebelliously satisfied. Something earthy in language is operative in the U.S. South and Inner Cities of the urban centers, direct and colorful, frowned by the guardians of propriety who seek the academic dictionary meaning of a word, but will not discern the context of its use.

There is something liberating about The Donald's unapologetic use of English. Clinton's roughness comes from a natural Arkansas earthiness that characterized his upbringing, getting him to the WH in spite of an inquisition. It culminated in a Lower House charge of "perjury" and "obstruction of justice," acquitted on a second perjury charge that was a cover for "sexual behavior" and "abuse of power." The Senate nullified the vote to impeach.

Some thought Clinton would resign, like Dick Nixon did, but Clinton jigged best when playing sophisticated redneck. Not The Donald. He talks a streak, and then some, his use of the language keeping media reports riveted in this presidential election year as the Presidency of Hillary is, by my reckon, about to be confirmed.

Meantime, are we going to see schlong hurled at Bill? Well, with former White House aides and interns coming out of the woodwork with charges (the trend got started on the other Bill, the Cosby) on the President's sexual improprieties and waywardness, I imagine a play on suburban cats west of the city of Chicago, also on one named Hillary, can happen, with Fox News poised to carry it primetime.

When I lived at Oleai behind the San Jose Church in a motel (now dilapidated), I dubbed the place the House of Horus, naming it after the Egyptian god that missionaries of the West derisively called by the first syllable of the House's name. Got it? Many found the telling of my stories recognizable, and the episodes easy to identify.

The residents were leftovers from the garment industry unable to earn enough to return home with what they were promised they could make. They hustled for it with services familiar to the male populace.

Words. Ah! Here, kitty kitty!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Winning dreams. Losing ticket.

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Let's review some basic economics:

Cost of a lottery ticket: $2.

Amount of money I'll ever win: zero.

Value of pipe-dreaming the things I could do if I did win (even though I won't): priceless.

We picked a fine time to contemplate this gig, since I can't bear to face my desk today. All I see is a pile of petty administrative tasks. I'm not good at those. Me, I could sooner build the Golden Gate Bridge with my bare hands than file for the permit to get its fence re-painted.

There's nothing wrong with a pipe-dream as long as you know it's a pipe-dream, so, with that in mind, here's my dream of the month: barbecue.

Yep, I'd take part of my giant winnings and start a BBQ place.

BBQ is popular just about everywhere, of course, including Saipan, but its status is without peer in the southern U.S. That's a broad region with a lot of variations, but no matter where I lived within that area one thing was constant: I always had a favorite local place for BBQ sandwiches.

I don't just miss the food. I miss the easy and comfortable experience of those BBQ places. They served as snug harbors where I could hide from the demands of the day and get some peace and quiet. There's an easy tempo about those places that wears like old blue jeans.

After all, everybody, even a newly-minted lottery multi-millionaire, needs to hang out somewhere. I can't think of any place better than an unpretentious BBQ shack in one of those quiet nooks where nobody is in a hurry to get anywhere because there's no other place that they'd rather be. Those kinds of places are my kind of places.

I know quite a few restaurant managers, many of whom are burned out from being puppets on a string and always dancing to the tugs of corporate bureaucracies in large restaurant chains. So, were the lotto to endow me with the status of eccentric rich guy, there would be plenty of competent talent to enlist for my scheme.

My pipe dream restaurant will only have two main items on the board. One will be pulled pork sandwiches with a mustard-based sauce. The other will be chipped beef sandwiches with a tangy and sweet tomato-based BBQ sauce. There are probably specific words for this culinary stuff, but I don't know anything about cooking. I just know about eating.

And as an experienced eater on this front, I'll mention that the bread part of the equation often deserves more attention than it gets. I would remedy that, and find, or engineer, a bread that could soak up the sauce without getting soggy and weak.

As for the side dishes, well, baked beans are a must. I guess I'll put one or two other things on the list, but I'll have to give it some more thought.

Well, so much for the menu. As for the inside furnishings, they will be picnic tables.

Outside? More picnic tables.

Since I have overly simple tastes, and would surely opt for an order-at-the-counter arrangement, I'll balance that out a bit by calling Saturday nights "date nights" (that's an old-school tradition) with suitably warm ambience provided by candles flickering from within Mason jars. Come to think of it, I've never actually tried putting a candle in a Mason jar, but it's worth a shot.

Speaking of Mason jars, many BBQ places serve drinks in them. This provides a nice mixture of the retro with the practical. From a logistics standpoint, what with my candle idea and all, this is a tempting play for beverage duty. But I'm going to cast my lot with red Solo cups. After all, it's pretty hard to argue with a product that's a player at fraternity parties, and in rodeo stands, and aboard yachting sundowners.

Alas, the sun has set on this dream. I just checked the lotto results and I have skunked again, so I have to face the rest of the day.

Still, it was worth $2 to reminisce about the old, easy days in slow Southern style, and to pretend that I could somehow buy my way back into those memories. Some things are just meant to be savored.

LATIN

From Page 12

to persuade lawmakers to launch public awareness campaigns that target both men and women (men in Latin American counties are often averse to using condoms) and provide free birth control to any woman who needs it.

Doctors and public health authorities also have a duty to appeal to their countries' leaders to give women access to birth control and abortion—at the very least until a Zika vaccine has been created or researchers rule out the virus as the cause of brain defects. That could be months or a year away. Their involvement is especially important, given that one pillar of culture in Latin America—the Roman Catholic Church—won't be offering any help. Catholic leaders have said unequivocally that Zika changes nothing about the church's stance against birth control, let alone its ban on abortion. Nor has Pope Francis addressed the Zika crisis this week as he tours Mexico speaking out against economic disparity.

Left unsaid is that the inability of women to control their bodies in a most basic way has a direct impact on their economic situation—and that the Zika epidemic could make things even worse for them and their families.

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NMI's hydra-headed monster

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

The NMI's hydra-headed monster is disconnection among the elected elite with urgent issues that have adversely and steadily affected villagers. This is accompanied by disorientation and fragmentation. Those who tried braving the difficult landscape of commonsense have retired to picking their pug nose, sighing for answers.

The mounting familial hardship met with apathy from imperial Capital Hill doesn't offer much hope for the multitude. It's sickening waiting for fully thought-out decisions on issues of significance that apparently have been sleepwalked by "our" representatives. The least they could have done is pretend they're doing something to give institutional legitimacy to their offices.

There's cluelessness in what the basic documents say, e.g., Covenant Agreement and the NMI Constitution. Include the willful scrapping of the voice of the people in a plebiscite, taxation, exodus of investments, efficacy of the Qualifying Certificates, the lack of a blueprint to revive the local economy, lease of public land, and geopolitical implications on regional security, among others.

The call for a second political status negotiation is a mutual consent provision to which our half-cocked men of wisdom are, again, clueless. If you want changes to the current agreement it means U.S. Congressional approval to federal law or U.S. PL 96-240. Otherwise, there's nothing up that alley other than grand exercise in futility. Better yet, let's do internal review how you've bankrupted the NMI government. We could very well learn, in humility, the very essence of self-government!

Investment exodus in recent past took with it some $7 billion from the islands. Add the shutter of the apparel industry and the figure is closer to $10 billion. Did you explore the root cause of this investment evacuation? If so, what was the cause of the exodus? Did you employ leadership to begin replacing significant revenue losses? What were those measures and how much did it turn into the local coffers? Or was this treated with the usual mañana where nothing was done thus the insolvency of the NMI?

Then came the new though infamous Qualifying Certificate (QC) law intended to lure more investments into the NMI. Has anyone seriously monitored the efficacy of this law to determine that in fact it has spurred investments, therefore, more new sources of revenue? Or was it ignored altogether?

Audit of QC: May I officially request of the Office of the Public Auditor and Attorney General's Office to review and audit how has this law helped the NMI. We must insist for information on who were given QCs, how much tax breaks were given, how much was their tax contribution into the local treasury, are they still here or have sold their interest and left, among others.

May we hear whether in fact this law is helpful or counterproductive or largely negative in its intent, requires serious overhaul or repeal altogether? Must have this information before we continue the usual blind leading the blind syndrome in perpetuity.

Even before the actual heavy loss in revenues, it should have dawned on the elected elite that other than rebuilding from the devastation of a storm that the NMI needs fiscal preparedness running in tandem. Did we do this and if so, was it based on a fully thought-out set of plans? Or have we relegated it to ad hoc planning (eventualities) versus the actual planning for our future?

Warped Generosity: With the deepening fiscal crisis why did you limit casino license to one? Why did legislators omit taxing "soft counting" in the casino? The combined fees and tax would have helped the NMI meet its mounting obligations now mired in insolvency land. Did the NMI also extend QC to its favorite business ally? Where's this "integrated resort" plan so we could review it thoroughly? Use of our land mandates our input full square! No more waltzing with chicanery.

It takes leadership to get the job done. Trust me, it can be done with a bit of vision and creativity. Otherwise, the fiscal crisis would deepen beyond resuscitation only to find out how you've dug the NMI's grave into wider and deeper hole. Or is the greater problem one of sclerotic management—incapable of adapting to change—in new ideas and approaches?

■■■

Development usually follows emplacement of basic infrastructure like water, power, sewer and roads. These projects are funded per availability of funds. Not sure how quickly we could work on CIP emplacement when we've already started dipping into this fund to pay CUC.

At least it grants the NMI the opportunity to pull the reins of growth so it resets it buttons to attain equilibrium. Let's have growth at our own pace. It the direct participation of the indigenous people not politicians who are usually clueless and disconnected to significant issues!

■■■

Momentarily, I thought there was a blizzard on Tinian until I read details of the story where some eight people were arrested for peddling shabu. What about the Saipan supplier? Shouldn't this guy be arrested so he joins his salesmen in DOC review where the plan went off the rails?

Sorry, there's no room here for a shrinking violet, sanctimonious diplomacy, or flatterer where I wilt for being overly deferential nor bludgeon you into agreement. But I speak my mind not to shut off conversation but to encourage meaningful discussion.

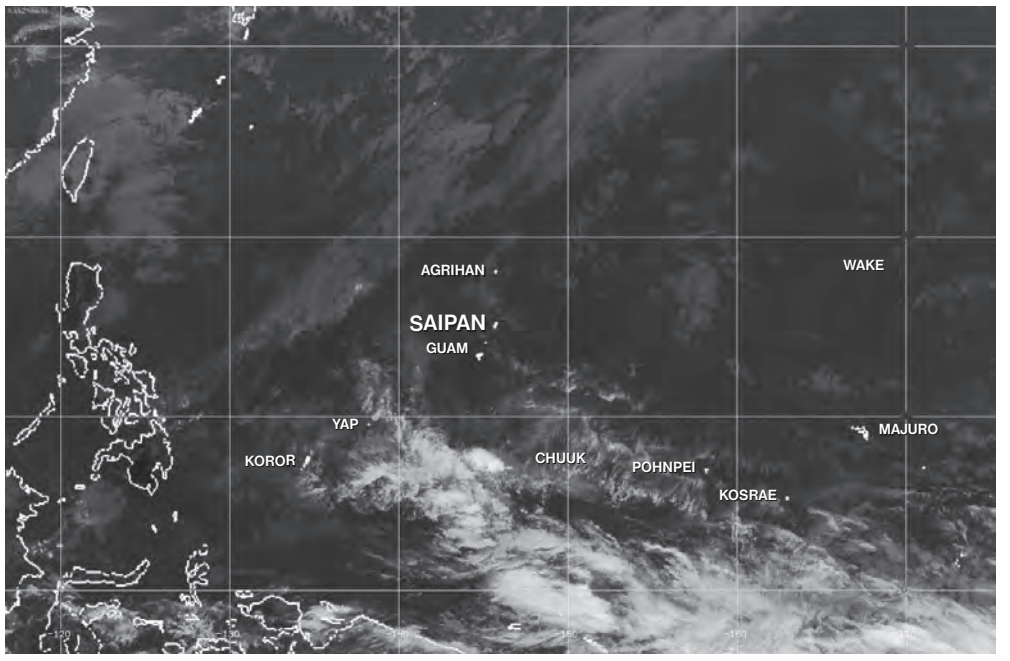
Review requisite basic documents for you will find that it "says what it says and doesn't say what it doesn't say". It's a good starting point so you don't send us cringing in humiliation every other full moon. We're still here and know when you missed the boat of rhyme and reason!

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward from 25N153E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and patchy showers northwest of the Marianas are along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. Scattered light to moderate trade wind showers are seen near Yap and just east of Koror between 6N and 12N from 134E to 142E. A surface trough curves southeastward from south of Yap at 7N138E to 2N150E then heads eastward to end southwest of Majuro at EQ167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen southeast of Yap within 150 miles of a line from 8N142E to 2N149E and south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 4N150E to 3N171E. Scattered showers are also present just south of Weno Chuuk between 5N and 7N from 146E to 152E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼78
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲65	▼58
Honolulu	Windy	▲79	▼68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲51	▼45
Los Angeles	Showers	▲67	▼49
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼70
Melbourne	Showers	▲71	▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼64
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼38
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲54	▼35
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲51	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼25
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼42
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼36

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:26 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:39 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:22 PM	3:36 AM
Saturday	4:15 PM	4:26 AM
Sunday	5:07 PM	5:14 AM
Monday	5:58 PM	5:59 AM
Tuesday	6:48 PM	6:41 AM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Examine GASB Statement No. 68

May we remind our elected leaders in the Legislature to demonstrate to their constituents their accountability and stewardship over the CNMI public resources to first get their frame of thought reading and examining GASB Statement No. 68. Doing this could bring some closure to the worries our retirees worrying if their next pension pay is weighing low in the priority scale of our government that owes this obligation.

May we remind our elected leaders that the budget does not just list what the generally accepted accounting principles of assets and liabilities, it should consists of all contingent liabilities of this government. Contingent liabilities are what GASB statements settle. Contingent liabilities such as unpaid accrual annual leave and sick leave accounts, post employment health insurance, unpaid lawsuit settlements, unfunded liabilities of defined benefit pension, medical referral bills in collection, non payment to rainy days reserve funds, future cost for infrastructure developments, unfunded services it receives from CUC, future demand developments, future economic developments, commitments and contractual obligations, opportunity costs and goodwill, and others. So, if the liabilities, contingent or otherwise, is more than the expected revenues any budget is out of balance.

It is a matter of priority, and where the defined benefit funded pension plan in the ranking order should be number one. According to GASB Statement No. 68, the pension plan is protected and has priority over other creditors. The CNMI government failed in its moral and ethical obligation paying the pay as you go arrangement of the employer contribution share for more than 10 years. Today, this payment should be first priority and the first in line for payment regardless whether any of the elected of the Legislature could devise any clever idea to circumvent this matter under the disguise of letter of the law or spirit of the law. This issue give telling story indicative that our elected representatives in our government must now begin to think outside the box by considering cutting government services even considering eliminating government offices, taxation, turning the poor performing economies of Tinian and Rota into a fledgling and growing member of the CNMI economy. Piecemeal and selective approaches are not the answer. What is the Plan? Wishing consumes as much energy as planning. The latter brings much more focus and contingent result.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

The US military plan for live-fire exercises in the CNMI by the numbers

The following numbers were taken from documents available online at http://www.chamorro.com including the Draft CJMT EIS and the Final MITT EIS, as well as EIS comments submitted by the CNMI government.

113,280 - The total number of acres of land in the CNMI.

15,859 - The number of acres of CNMI land already under military control. This is 14 percent of all CNMI land.

27,187 – The number of acres of CNMI land that the military would hold under the CNMI Joint Military Training (CJMT) proposal. This is 24 percent of all CNMI land.

30,000,000 - The total number of acres of land that the US Military currently uses for training purposes outside the CNMI.

833,986,973 - The number of acres of open ocean around Mariana islands that makes up the recently approved Mariana Islands Testing and Training Range (MITT). This is the acre equivalent of 984,000 square nautical miles and is larger than the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, and New Mexico combined.

6,000 – The number of explosive bombs per year that the MITT authorizes for No'os (FDM) under the MITT. Previously, the number was 2,150 per year. This is a 300 percent increase in bombing.

6,880,860 – The number of field artillery, shells, mortars, rockets, and grenades projected to hit Tinian and Pagan over 60 years (based on Draft CJMT EIS estimate of 114,681 per year for 20 and 15 weeks of live-fire for Tinian and Pagan respectively).

10,596,000 – The number of bombs up to 1,000 lbs to be dropped on Tinian and Pagan over 60 years (based on Draft CJMT EIS estimates of 176,600 air-delivered munitions per year for 20 and 15 weeks of live-fire for Tinian and Pagan respectively).

See THE US on Page 16

TOYOTA
TOYOTA
DREAM CAR
ART CONTEST
Draw your dream, Drive the future.
Create your "Dream Car" using any standard drawing medium (coloring pencils, crayons, watercolors or markers) with the only restriction being the use of digital tools. Artwork must not be larger than 15.7in x 21.7in.
ENTRY PERIOD
Deadline March 4, 2016
CONTEST THEME
Your Dream Car
AGE CATEGORIES
Under 8 years old
8 - 11 years old
12 - 15 years old
• Award-winners will be eligible to participate in the world contest.
THE WORLD CONTEST
• Award: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Finalist, Special award.
• Prize: Gold, Silver, Bonze, Special award winners*
-Invitation to the award ceremony trip to Japan on August 2016.
ENQUIRIES
Atkins Kroll
Administration Office of Toyota Dream Car Art Contest
Phone number: (671) 234-5911
E-mail address: doug.brennan@aksaipan.com
For more details, please visit the website.
www.aksaipan.com
For details, see entry terms and conditions of the Toyota Dream Car Art Contest.

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GRANDVRIO RESORT SAIPAN

Our Tropicana restaurant (2nd floor of Taga Tower) in Grandvrio Resort Saipan will open regularly with following schedule.

* Lunch: 11:30am-2pm Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					2/12 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: Closed	2/13 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: Closed
2/14 **Sunday Brunch $22** Dinner: Closed	2/15 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: Closed	2/16 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/17 Buffet Lunch $14 Dinner: A La Carte	2/18 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/19 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	2/20 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg. $35 (Local: $25)
2/21 **Sunday Brunch $22** Dinner: A La Carte	2/22 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/23 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/24 Buffet Lunch: $14 Dinner: A La Carte	2/25 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte	2/26 Buffet Lunch $14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: $35 (Local: $25)	2/27 Lunch: A La Carte Seafood & Sushi Night Reg. $35 (Local: $25)
2/28 **Sunday Brunch $22** Dinner: A La Carte	2/29 Lunch: A La Carte Dinner: A La Carte					

* Welcome to enjoy fantastic buffet at our ***"Tropicana Restaurant"***! Performance is available on Sunday Brunch; ***"Seafood & Sushi night"*** dinner buffet every Friday and Saturday.
* ***"Starlight BBQ"*** Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. $30 (Local: $28) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pm Menu: All you eat & drink" - beers, reds&white wine, softdrinks, oolong tea and juices.
* Come and taste delicious curry & sandwich set ($7.00 only), cake, cafe latte, organic smoothies, with unique ocean view at our ***"Airi Coffee Lounge"***.
* Our ***"Dolphin"*** will reopen as the A La Carte restaurant in March 2016. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Special Lunch Bento ($10~) and Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner ($30).

RESTAURANT TROPICANA

For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

New Dental Office Now Open!

- Schedule your **$39** New Patient Appointment*
- Brand New, State of the Art General and Cosmetic Dental Clinic
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UOG hosts Charter Day 5K on March 6

The University of Guam celebrates its 48th Charter Day on Tuesday, March 8! This year's theme is "Triton Spirit. One University. Many Voice." To kick-off the events, the UOG Calvo Field House Athletics Department and the UOG Endowment Foundation will be hosting the annual 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, March 6, 2016. Show time is 5am, go time is 6am.

The first 250 finishers will receive Dri-Fit Shirts! Runners can register at at the UOG Calvo Field House Main Office and online through the Eventbrite link at the UOG website: www.uog.edu/charterday and the UOG Endowment Foundation website: www.uogendowment.org. Early registration is $7 per individual or $24 per group of four and $10 per person on race day.

Proceeds from this special event will go toward the UOG Calvo Field House Athletics Department to purchase needed sports equipment for UOG students.

Childcare offered

As an added service, parents with children ages 2-8 may register for childcare while they run! The student organization Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) from the UOG School of Education has volunteered to run the childcare service.

For more information, contact the UOG Endowment Foundation at 735-2956 or email team@uogendowment.org. ***(PR)***

Military to conduct training in Agat Bay, W-517

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at Agat Bay during the following dates and times:

- Feb. 25-26 from 9am to 1pm

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- Feb. 23 from noon to 8pm
- Feb. 25 from noon to 8pm

These trainings are designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the trainings.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprised of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Cope North to conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Feb. 22-25 from 8am to 7pm
- Feb. 26 from 8am to 1pm

The general public— especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

THE US

From Page 15

295,538,580 – The number of small arms munitions up to .50 caliber to be shot on Tinian and Pagan over 60 years (based on Draft CJMT EIS estimate of 4,925,643 per year for 20 and 15 weeks of live-fire for Tinian and Pagan respectively).

20 and 15 – The number of weeks per year of live-fire exercises planned for Tinian and Pagan respectively. These levels will probably increase to 45 and 40 weeks respectively. During exercises the military has jurisdictional control of the sea and airspace around these islands and non-military travel will be severely restricted.

2076 – The year that Pagan would be returned to the CNMI if not automatically extended. Any CNMI resident over 30 years old today will be at least 90 years old at that time.

34 – The percentage of Vieques island residents with toxic levels of mercury in their bodies at the end of 60 years of bombing practice by the U.S. military.

55 – The percentage of Vieques island residents contaminated with lead at the end of 60 years of bombing practice by the U.S. military.

59 – The percentage of Vieques island residents contaminated with arsenic at the end of 60 years of bombing practice by the U.S. military.

180,000,000 – The dollars spent as of 2013 to clear ordnance and toxic contaminates from Vieques. Clean-up is expected to continue to 2025. No clean-up of the surrounding ocean is planned.

Visit http://www.chamorro.com for the full story on the military's plans to turn the Marianas into the world's largest live-fire training range.

PaganWatch
An Alternative Zero Coalition member

PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS PROGRAM

Marianas Chapter

Be part of the solution. Become a Fellow.

The PCF Marianas Chapter is a non-profit, leadership development program that runs for one year incorporating periodic sessions covering current issues facing the CNMI.

Bright minds brought together can make a world of difference. With the challenges we face in our CNMI, there has never been a greater need for leaders to start working better together.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **February 26th:** Application deadline
- **March 5th:** Selection Saturday (Mandatory)
- **March 19th - 20th:** Mandatory Weekend Retreat

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be between the ages of 25-45
- Submit completed application
- Provide two (2) letters of recommendation
- Must be able to attend weekend retreat and meet minimum attendance requirement.

A tuition fee is assessed following selection to cover fellowship expenses for the entire year. Financial assistance is available, see website for details.

To request an application or for more information, please visit our website at **www.pcf-marianas.com** or contact Alex Sablan or Mel Naputi at 235-0560 ext 118/166 or send an email to pcfmarianas@gmail.com.

"Fellows will be in an environment that will foster open mindedness, creativity and constructive problem solving...
Fellows will be better able to lead, not only in their respective industries, but in the bigger picture of the communities they serve and the islands in which they live."

Republic of Palau signs Energy Act into law

NGERULMUD, Palau— Palau has become the second Pacific Island country in over two decades to sign a National Energy Act into law, which facilitates the establishment of an Energy Administration at the executive level to enforce a more effective coordination and management of the energy sector.

Representatives from Palau's government ministries and departments as well as the European Union and Pacific Community (SPC) partnered North Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project (North-REP), and the United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Fund (UNDP – GEF) funded Sustainable Economic Development through Renewable Energy Applications (SEDREA) project worked together toward achieving this landmark legislation that was signed on 5 February, by President Tommy Remengesau.

In its National Energy Policy 2010, Palau identified the need to have such a facility with dedicated resources at such an appropriate level that would completely reshape the energy sector in Palau.

"It was a comprehensive process of drafting, consulting and debate within the Senate and the House of Delegates including public hearings. This would not have become a reality without the support and persistence of Senate Vice President Rukebai Inabo and Delegate Lentcher Basilius," said Palau's Director of Energy, Greg Decherong.

"Having such a law will further strengthen the energy sector through real commitments by means of budget allocation and coordinated national responsibilities," Decherong added.

"Palau and Cook Islands have paved the way and it is our hope that such commitments will be replicated by others in the region," SPC's Deputy Director Energy of the Economic Development Division, Solomone Fifita said.

The European Union Ambassador to Fiji and the Pacific, H.E. Andrew Jacobs said the positive step taken by Palau was a great example to all Pacific Island countries.

"I commend all those involved in this undertaking for achieving such a great outcome for the people of Palau. Having a strong and fully resourced energy administration will mean better coordination between Palau and development partners in the energy sector which will in turn help Palau towards achieving its energy policy goals, in particular with increasing the penetration of renewable energy sources," Ambassador Jacobs said.

While most Pacific Island countries and territories have developed and adopted national energy policies over the past decade, the ideas and proposed pathways in these documents have not been fully realised due to limited regulations and legislation to support coordination and implementation of activities.

There have often been ad-hoc approaches to legislation and normally enacted as a result of a state of emergency and as a result only two Pacific Island countries and territories to date have developed National Energy Acts-Cook Islands and the Republic of Palau. ***(SPC)***

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Watts Constructors signed a Statement of Support (SOS) for the Guard and Reserve last Jan. 19 at their Harmon Office on Guam. Representing Watts Construction during the SOS signing are, from left, Mark Leicht Sr., estimator; Lester Wescott, project manager; John Sage, P.E., vice president/general manager; Stephen Escude, operations manager; and Loretta Mata, office administrator/Regional Small Business liaison officer. Also present were, back from left, Perla Brito, HR intern/admin assistant; Josette Adamos, HR manager; Phillisha Cruz, admin/receptionist; Enrique Santiago, lead estimator; and Benny M. Paulino, Ret. MG/ ESGR Guam-CNMI chair emeritus; service members and Watts Construction staff Leonard Rabago, safety manager; Brian Muna, mason foreman; and El J Balajadia, project coordinator; Renie "Rey" Llaneta, ESGR Guam-CNMI Employer Outreach director; John Bell, ESGR Guam-CNMI Military outreach director; and Deborah Weger, ESGR Guam-CNMI website manager.

Red Cross Walkathon set for April 30

The American Red Cross is proud to announce its 30th Annual Red Cross Walkathon is scheduled for April 30.

The 30th anniversary event will be extra exciting with many special activities including a carnival and health fair, drinks, food, and a T-shirt for all participants. There will be prizes for various categories including student with the most pledges as well as awards and recognition for top schools. The 10K and 5K event will be held on all three islands starting at 6am.

Please mark your calendar, support the Red Cross and plan on a morning of exercise and family fun!

For more information about participating or volunteering, please contact the Red Cross at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION TO BID
CUC-ITB-16-004

SURVEYED VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment located in Saipan & Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained at no charge upon registration at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and One (1) copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-ITB-16-004, CUC Surveyed Vehicles & Equipment**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 26, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Bidders must sign a Waiver of Liability, removing CUC's liability from claims resulting from violations relating to the removal and disposal of the surveyed vehicles & equipment. CUC shall transfer and assign the surveyed vehicles/equipment to the prospective bidder in an "**As is, Where is**" condition. By accepting the transfer and assignment, the bidder acknowledges that CUC has made no representation or warranties of the merchantability, quality, fitness, and condition of the vehicles/equipment.

The vehicles/equipment may be inspected by appointment only, between the hours of 9:00 AM thru 3:00 PM Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, by contacting CUC Procurement & Supply Division at telephone no. 664-4282 extensions 367 & 305. For the vehicles on Tinian, please contact Winston Omar at 433-9261 or 433-3488.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CUC.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2016, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician for Procurement via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-005

WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT, SAILING DRIVE, DANDAN (W12-022D)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Water Main Extension Project in Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work consists of the installation of approximately 940 LF of new 8-inch PVC water line, along with approximately 500 LF of new 2" PVC water line. It will also involve the reconnection of new and existing customers onto the new waterlines within the project area.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **75 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-16-005, Water Main Extension Project, Sailing Drive, Dandan** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 18, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 3, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer – via email john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCING REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the replacement of the airport perimeter fencing at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 19, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to remove and replace all airfield marking and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The design must comply with FAA A/C 150-5340-1L.

The project is being funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOADING BRIDGES 2, 3 AND 6 REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the removal and replacement of three (3) passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 19, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 4, 2016.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority:

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKINGS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-002-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Engineering Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to remove and replace all airfield marking and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The design must comply with FAA A/C 150-5340-1L.

The project is being funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, February 22, 2016, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. A/E design experience in similar scoped projects in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (35 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – (25 points);
3. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
4. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (15 points); and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 2, 2016

Nation

Fight over gunman's locked iPhone could have big impact

WASHINGTON (AP)—An extraordinary legal fight is brewing with major privacy implications for millions of cellphone users after a federal magistrate ordered Apple Inc. to help the FBI hack into an iPhone used by the gunman in the San Bernardino mass shootings.

The clash brings to a head a long-simmering debate between technology companies insistent on protecting digital privacy and law enforcement agencies concerned about losing their ability to recover evidence or eavesdrop on the communications of terrorists or criminals.

On Wednesday, the White House quickly disputed the contention by Apple's chief executive officer, Tim Cook, that the Obama administration is seeking to force the software company to build a "backdoor" to bypass digital locks protecting consumer information on Apple's popular iPhones.

The early arguments set the stage for what will likely be a protracted policy and public relations fight in the courts, on Capitol Hill, on the Internet and elsewhere.

"They are not asking Apple to redesign its product or to create a new backdoor to one of their products," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. "They're simply asking for something that would have an impact on this one device."

AP

This July 27, 2014, photo provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows Tashfeen Malik, left, and Syed Farook, as they passed through O'Hare International Airport in Chicago.

Within hours of the judge's order on Tuesday telling Apple to aid the FBI with special software in the case, Cook promised a court challenge. He said the software the FBI would need to unlock the gunman's work-issued iPhone 5C would be "too dangerous to create" and "undeniably" a backdoor.

Cook compared it to a master key, capable of opening hundreds of millions of locks, and said there was no way to keep the technique secret once it was developed.

"Once the information is known, or a way to bypass the code is revealed, the encryption can be defeated by anyone with that knowledge," Cook said.

At the center of the debate is the private information carried on nearly 900 million iPhones sold worldwide: Photographs, videos, chat messages, health records and more.

Flint mayor, governor split on pace of lead pipe replacement

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—Newly hired outside engineers have been given a month to find Flint's underground lead water pipes, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder said Wednesday, saying he wants service line replacements to begin promptly but not so quickly that it causes other problems.

The governor, facing pressure from Flint Mayor Karen Weaver and national civil rights leaders for quicker action, said his ultimate goal is to replace the old pipes, but the state-funded study is needed to locate them and prioritize which ones to remove first. Weaver announced Wednesday that the city intends to begin to replacing pipes next week and called on lawmakers to quickly approve $25 million in spending that Snyder proposed in his budget presentation last week.

"I do have some concerns about how fast you do it," Snyder said during a news conference at Rowe Professional Services, the Flint company retained Tuesday to do the analysis, which will include the replacement of 30 service lines by mid-March. "But we're talking a very short timeline to start having some pipes replaced in the community."

He cited concerns from Virginia Tech professor Marc Edwards, who helped expose the lead problem and is now assisting both the city and state, that partial pipe replacements in Washington, D.C., had actually boosted lead contamination. The information showing which homes have risky pipes is also difficult to retrieve, stored on tens of thousands of index cards.

In a statement before Snyder's event, Weaver said she would "not accept anything less than full removal of all lead pipes from our water system" and said Snyder should pressure legislators.

"Lansing and Washington need to understand that the first and most critical priority is an emergency public health intervention to start getting rid of these pipes immediately," she said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Muslim man sues Oklahoma gun range for refusing him service

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—A U.S. Army reservist from Tulsa asked to leave a gun range in eastern Oklahoma after identifying himself as a Muslim sued the owners Wednesday, the latest in a series of cases across the nation alleging anti-Islamic discrimination. The lawsuit on behalf of 29-year-old Raja'ee Fatihah, an employee with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, was filed in U.S. District Court in Muskogee against the owners of Save Yourself Survival and Tactical Gun Range in the small town of Oktaha. A sign posted on the business declared the range a "Muslim-free" establishment, and is similar to signs that have been placed at businesses in Florida, Arkansas, Kentucky and New York, said Brady Henderson, legal director for the Oklahoma chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed the suit.

Georgia executes ex-Navy crewman who killed fellow sailor

JACKSON, Ga. (AP)—A former Navy crewman was executed Wednesday in Georgia for killing a fellow sailor whose remains were found buried in two states. Travis Hittson, 45, was declared dead at 8:14 p.m. by Warden Bruce Chatman after receiving an injection of the barbiturate pentobarbital at the state prison in Jackson. He was convicted in the April 1992 killing of Conway Utterbeck. When Chatman asked if he wanted to make a final statement in front of witnesses, Hittson said, "No, sir. I'm alright." He then agreed to have a prayer read.

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES, FO197
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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANKS (GUAM), INC., Plaintiff, vs. JESUS T. LIZAMA dba VICTORIA HOTEL, J&JEV ENTERPRISES, INC., and the BANK OF GUAM, Defendants.	] Civil Action No. 00-0296 D]] (SECOND AMENDED)] NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL] SALE]]]]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Amended Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on 30th day of January, 2001, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC. ("ANZ"), in the above titled action from Defendants JESUS T. LIZAMA DBA VICTORIA HOTEL AND J&JEV ENTERPRISES, INC., as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property filed on February 13, 2013, pursuant to 7 CMC § 4537(e) the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of March, 2016 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

PARCELS 1 & 2:

a. LOT 001 D 13, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 1), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

b. LOT 001 D 14, (formerly known as Block 3, Lot 2), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 D 00, the original of which was registered 30 SEP 70 as Document No. 512 at Land Registry, Saipan.

And immediately thereafter, the sale of the following parcel of property:

PARCEL 3:

c. TRACT 21732-9, part of original Tract 21732-R1, AH 140), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2085/84, the original of which was recorded 08 AUG 84 as Document No. 84-1439 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. All the property listed in this notice shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public auction, without any warranty being given, express or implied, with respect to the title, possession, and encumbrances, to satisfy the amount due to Plaintiff ANZ GUAM, INC. on the date of the sale under the Amended Judgment as prescribed in the Order Directing Foreclosure Sale of Mortgaged Property. ANZ GUAM, INC. reserves the right to bid all or part of the amount due at the time of the sale.

3. Payment. A deposit of twenty percent (20%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by the successful bidder. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 20% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff, ANZ GUAM, INC., formerly known as CITIZENS SECURITY BANK (GUAM), INC.

4. Inspection. Interested bidders may inspect the property at the following times:
Parcels 1 & 2: February 26, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.
Parcel 3: February 29, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

5. Change of Terms. ANZ GUAM, INC., reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

6. No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 11th day of February, 2016.

__/s/_____
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

February 9, 2016

TO: ROSA M. DELA CRUZ, individually and as Administratrix of the Estate of GABRIEL D. DELA CRUZ, Deceased:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated August 1, 1988 (modified by revision agreements dated January 6, 1995, and July 27, 1999), secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot no. 005 I 516, situated in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 743 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat no. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 14232, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: Promissory Note dated August 1, 1988, $48,500.00
Revision agreement dated January 6, 1995, $76,333.33;
Revision agreement dated July 27, 1999, $71,185.77;
Mortgage dated August 1, 1988, $48,500.00.

(c) Amount due for principal: $8,150.63 as of February 1, 2016
(d) Amount due for interest: $50,935.51 as of February 1, 2016
(e) Daily accruing interest: $11.81
(f) Late charges -0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges of $59,086.14 as of February 1, 2016, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees in the amount of $500.00 are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30)-day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

■■■■■

Ti un komple i kontratahan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Agosto 1, 1998 (ni un ribisa gi Enero 6, 1995 yan Julio 27, 1999), ni afabobot i Real Estate Mortgage ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni um empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empeneñ (mortgaged):

Sito numiro 005 I 516, ni gaigi gi Saipan, Northern Marianas, ni ha konsiste un aria 743 kuadrao metro, mas pat menus, ni anok gi Dibision Tano yan Dididan Tano ofisiat Cadastral Plat numiro 2084/2, i orihinat ni ma recodia gi Rehistrasion Tano komu Dukumento numiro 14232, guihi i diskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen i infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empepeña: Promissory Note gi Agosto 1, 1988, $48,500.00
Ma ribisa gi Enero 6, 1995, 76,333.33
Ma rebisa gi Julio 27, 1999, $71,185.77
Empeña (Mortgage) gi Agosto 1, 1988, $48,500.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: $8,150.63 asta ki Febreru 1, 2016
(d) Kantida un debi para interes: $50,935.51 asta ki Febreru 1, 2016
(e) Interes kada dia: $11.81
(f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges): -0-

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges), $59,086.14 asta ki Febreru 1, 2016 yan interest, yan i resanable na apas abugado pot $500.00 gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di i fecha ni un resibe esta na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple i kontratamu (default), ya siempre umatutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi i propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot i apudera sino komo i pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asientadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot i apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot i dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi i kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai in nai'i hao i na'an yan address i akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'kesiña ma rikohi i debi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este i dibi-mu.

Su Seguro Servidor,

/s/ Michael A. White, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, v. RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS, Defendants.	) CIVIL ACTION) NO.: 15-0199)) **SUMMONS (for Publication)**

TO : HELGA G.G. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

Dated: December 24, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Fourth Publication

World

Seoul's spy service says North Korea is preparing attacks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently ordered preparations for launching "terror" attacks on South Koreans, a top Seoul official said Thursday, as worries about the North grow after its recent nuclear test and rocket launch.

In televised remarks, senior South Korean presidential official Kim Sung-woo said North Korea's spy agency has begun work to implement Kim Jong Un's order to "muster anti-South terror capabilities that can pose a direct threat to our lives and security."

He said the possibility of North Korean attacks "is increasing more than ever" and asked for quick passage of an anti-terror bill in parliament.

North Korea has a history of attacks on South Korea, such as the 2010 shelling on an island that killed four South Koreans and the 1987 bombing of a South Korean passenger plane that killed all 115 people on board. But it is impossible to independently confirm claims about any such attack preparations. The South Korean presidential official did not say where the latest information came from.

Earlier Thursday, Seoul's National Intelligence Service briefed ruling Saenuri Party members on a similar assessment on North Korea's attack preparations, according to one of the party officials who attended the private meeting.

During the briefing, the NIS, citing studies on past North Korean provocations and other unspecified assessments, said the attacks could target anti-Pyongyang activists, defectors and government officials in South Korea, the party official said requesting anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to media publicly.

Attacks on subways, shopping malls and other public places could also happen, he said.

The official quoted the NIS as saying North Korea could launch poisoning attacks on the activists and defectors, or lure them to China where they would be kidnapped.

The Saenuri official refused to say whether the briefing discussed how the information was obtained. The NIS, which has a mixed record on predicting developments in North Korea, said it could not confirm its reported assessment.

The standoff with North Korea is not expected to ease soon, as Seoul and Washington are discussing deploying a sophisticated U.S. missile defense system in South Korea that Pyongyang warns would be a source of regional tension.

The allies also say their annual springtime military drills will be the largest ever. South Korea's defense minister said Thursday that about 15,000 U.S. troops will take part, double of the number Washington normally sends.

US accuses China amid signs of missiles on disputed island

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States warned Wednesday of rising tensions in the South China Sea after China appeared to have placed a surface-to-air missile system on a disputed island.

Taiwan's defense ministry said that China had positioned anti-aircraft missiles on Woody Island in the Paracel chain, which is occupied by China but also claimed by Taiwan and Vietnam.

State Department spokesman Mark Toner said commercial satellite imagery appeared to indicate China has deployed a surface-to-air missile system. Another U.S. official gave a more direct confirmation of the deployment on Woody Island. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the information publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said it is unclear whether the deployment is intended for the long-term.

The deployment follows China's building of new islands by piling sand atop reefs and then adding airstrips and military installations. The buildup is seen as part of Beijing's efforts to claim virtually the entire disputed sea and its resources, which has prompted some of its wary neighbors to draw closer to the U.S.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi accused the media of hyping the issue and saying more attention should be paid to the "public goods and services" provided by China's development of its maritime claims.

China's actions in the South China Sea have becoming a source of tension not just with other Asian governments that claim territory there, but with Washington. Secretary of State John Kerry said the signs of increasing militarization contradicted a public assurance from Chinese President Xi Jinping when he visited the White House last September.

"When President Xi was here in Washington, he stood in the Rose Garden with President Obama and said China will not militarize the South China Sea. But there is every evidence every day that there has been an increase in militarization," Kerry said before meeting with Poland's foreign minister in Washington.

"It's a serious concern," he said, adding that he expected the U.S. would have a "very serious conversation" with China on the issue in the next few days.

U.S. network Fox News reported that China had moved two batteries of the HQ-9 surface-to-air missile system, along with radar targeting arrays on Woody island.

HIS Jane's Intelligence Review agreed with that conclusion in its assessment of commercial satellite imagery of the island. The review's deputy editor Neil Ashdown said that depending on the version of the HQ-9 deployed, the system has a range of between 125 kilometers (78 miles) and 230 kilometers (143 miles), and would be the most advanced surface-to-air missile system currently deployed on land in the South China Sea. He described that as a significant military escalation.

Reports: Syrian man behind deadly Ankara car bomb attack

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkish media reports say a Syrian national was behind the attack in Ankara that killed at least 28 people and wounded dozens of others.

Yeni Safak, a newspaper close to the government, said Thursday that the man who detonated the car bomb Wednesday that targeted buses carrying military personnel was identified from his fingerprints. It said he had been registered as a refugee in Turkey.

Pro-government Sabah newspaper said the man was linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

A government official couldn't confirm the reports.

The explosion occurred during evening rush hour in the heart of Ankara, in an area close to parliament and armed forces headquarters and lodgings.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility although suspicion fell on the PKK and the Islamic State group.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40' x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars ($150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/S/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 22, 2016

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-16-2333

For: ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & LANDSCAPING SERVICES ON GARAPAN BEACH ROAD & CORAL TREE AVENUE

Closing Date: **March 21, 2016** Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ JAMES NELSON
MVA Vice Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission's scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. has been moved up to 2:00 p.m. at the Commission's Office (Conference Room) at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. **PRELIMINARIES:**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of Minutes – December 23, 2015
II. **REPORTS:**
   A. Report by the Chairman
   B. Report by the Executive Director
III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
IV. **OLD BUSINESS**
   A. **UNLV International Gaming Institute** – *Update on the Casino Regulatory Training*
V. **NEW BUSINES**
   A. **CNMI Casino Regulations** – Consideration of amending published regulations based on public comments for Adoption in the Regulations
VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
VII. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

Off The Wall

Dog rescued from 14-foot-deep sinkhole after 2 nights inside

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—A dog that spent two nights stuck in a 14-foot-deep sinkhole was rescued Wednesday by firefighters using a makeshift harness.

Owners Ron and Megan Holmes told the Centre Daily Times (http://bit.ly/1Wsg1dj) their golden retriever, Skye, is doing fine now despite the ordeal.

Megan Holmes said she was walking Skye around an arboretum at Penn State University in State College during a snowstorm on Monday night when she let the dog off a leash and the dog seemingly vanished.

Ron Holmes learned Tuesday that the area, in central Pennsylvania, had sinkholes and found one and yelled into it. But he could hear only gushing water.

The couple returned Wednesday. This time, Skye's bark greeted them when they yelled for her.

It was "the most fantastic feeling hearing her," Ron Holmes said.

"I thought she would have drowned if she was somewhere down there or suffered hypothermia," he said.

AP

In this photo provided by Ryan McCaughey, rescue workers check Skye, a golden retriever, after being rescued in State College, Pa., Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016.

The dog had fallen into a "Volkswagen buggy-sized hole," though the opening was only about 18 inches wide, regional fire director Steve Bair said.

After the opening was widened to 30 inches, an assistant chief with the Alpha Fire Company climbed down a ladder and hooked Skye up to a harness. Campus police put down large mats to stabilize the area.

"On the fly we constructed a harness for the dog," Bair said.

Skye "kind of sensed what was happening and was very cooperative," he said.

With some pushing and pulling, the dog was brought to the surface.

Ohio township to drop case against 'Zombie Nativity'

CINCINNATI (AP)—A suburban township in southwest Ohio is dropping its court case against a man charged with zoning violations for his holiday "Zombie Nativity" scene, an official said Tuesday.

Jasen Dixon's display had ghoulish figures in place of the baby Jesus and others who would be in traditional Christmas Nativities.

Sycamore Township officials said he violated rules about an improper "accessory use" structure housing the nativity scene in his front yard.

Dixon was facing thousands of dollars in fines, but his defense argued the township was trying to suppress his freedoms.

Township administrator Greg Bickford told The Cincinnati Enquirer (http://cin.ci/1PP16pA) that since the display has been taken down, there's no need to spend taxpayer dollars continuing the litigation.

A Hamilton County judge had planned to rule March 15 on a motion to dismiss the case. He heard arguments earlier this month as a handful of people dressed and made up as zombies demonstrated outside the courthouse.

Dixon's attorney, Rob Linneman, called the township's decision to drop the case a victory for freedom of expression and property rights.

"A lot of people have looked at this case as a humorous story, but there is a fundamental principle at stake," Linneman said. "The real importance of the First Amendment is that it protects unconventional and unpopular viewpoints from persecution."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

$200 scratch lotto winnings lead woman to help homeless man

WAREHAM, Mass. (AP)—Good fortune and a chance meeting have led a Massachusetts woman to change a homeless stranger's life. Sofia Andrade had just won $200 on a scratch lottery ticket when she saw Glenn Williams panhandling Saturday evening near a stop sign in New Bedford. Andrade decided to use her winnings to get Williams a motel room near her Wareham home. She also started a GoFundMe page, which had raised $12,000 for Williams' long-term care by Tuesday evening. Andrade tells WCVB-TV she believes the money she won was "meant to help" Williams. Williams has been homeless for three years. He says he's overwhelmed by the help and can't believe someone like Andrade exists.

New York City officials decide it's too cold for ice fest

NEW YORK (AP)—It's too cold in New York City for the annual Central Park Ice Festival. The Central Park Conservancy says Saturday's event has been canceled. The National Weather Service predicts temperatures in the teens on Saturday for New York. But wind chills could drop to between zero and minus-10, and wind gusts could reach around 44 mph. The free event was to feature ice-carving artists and music. Last month, Central Park's free winter sports day called Winter Jam was canceled due to a major snowstorm.

Philadelphia's Love Park tagged with graffiti before repairs

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia's Love Park has been vandalized with graffiti in the days before it closes for a yearlong, multimillion-dollar renovation. Mayor Jim Kenney announced Feb. 10 that a ban on skateboarding would be lifted until the park closed this week. The park has long been a skateboarding mecca because of its granite ledges, benches and steps. Skaters from around the region have been taking advantage of their last chance to use it. It's not clear whom the vandals were, but Kenney's office tells WPVI-TV they "expected something like this to happen" when they opened the park to skaters. The park and welcome center are getting a $20 million facelift. Robert Indiana's "LOVE" statue will be moved across the street to City Hall's Dilworth Plaza during the renovation.

Science & Technology

Hospital paid 17K ransom to hackers of its computer network

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los Angeles hospital paid a ransom of about $17,000 to hackers who infiltrated and disabled its computer network because paying was in the best interest of the hospital and the most efficient way to solve the problem, the medical center's chief executive said Wednesday.

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center paid the demanded ransom of 40 bitcoins—currently worth $16,664 dollars—after the network infiltration that began Feb. 5, CEO Allen Stefanek said in a statement.

The FBI is investigating the attack, often called "ransomware," where hackers encrypt a computer network's data to hold it "hostage," providing a digital decryption key to unlock it for a price.

"The quickest and most efficient way to restore our systems and administrative functions was to pay the ransom and obtain the decryption key," Stefanek said. "In the best interest of restoring normal operations, we did this."

Ransomware attacks can happen to everyone from individuals to large institutions.

The hospital did not say whether anyone had recommended it pay off the hackers.

Computer security experts normally recommend people not pay the ransom, though at times law enforcement agencies suggest they do, said Adam Kujawa, Head of Malware Intelligence for Malwarebytes, a San Jose-based company that recently released anti-ransomware software.

It's difficult to know how many victims pay the ransom, because many who do don't reveal it.

"Unfortunately, a lot of companies don't tell anybody if they had fallen victim to ransomware and especially if they have paid the criminals," Kujawa said, "but I know from the experiences I hear about from various industry professionals that it's a pretty common practice to just hand over the cash."

Bitcoins, the online currency that is hard to trace, is becoming the preferred way for hackers collect a ransom, FBI Special Agent Thomas Grasso, who is part of the government's efforts to fight malicious software including ransomware, told The Associated Press last year.

During 2013, the number of attacks each month rose from 100,000 in January to 600,000 in December, according to a 2014 report by Symantec, the maker of antivirus software.

A report from Intel Corp.'s McAfee Labs released in November said the number of ransomware attacks is expected to grow even more in 2016 because of increased sophistication in the software used to do it.

The company estimates that on average, 3 percent of users with infected machines pay a ransom. It's not clear how many of those users were individuals and how many companies. Some ransomware attacks go unreported because the victims don't want it publicized they were hacked.

Professor designs explosives detector to rival a dog's nose

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. (AP)—A University of Rhode Island professor has developed a sensor that detects the kind of explosive used in the Paris bombings, to try to stop future attacks.

Professor Otto Gregory compares his sensor to a dog's nose, the gold standard in explosives detection. It "sniffs" the air for vapors emitted from explosives.

Inside his laboratory, Gregory is evaluating how well his sensor detects triacetone triperoxide. The Paris attackers packed TATP into their suicide vests and wielded assault rifles, killing 130 people Nov. 13.

TATP was also used in the 2005 London bombings, which killed 52 commuters, and by Richard Reid, who tried unsuccessfully to detonate a bomb in his shoe during a trans-Atlantic flight in 2001.

TATP is relatively easy to make, and the materials are readily available in pharmacies and hardware stores, experts say. Even small quantities can cause large explosions. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security began funding Gregory's work through a center for explosives research in 2008.

His sensor is designed to continuously monitor an area, unlike a quick swab of a hand or of luggage at the airport to screen for particulates from explosives. It doesn't need training or breaks, as bomb-sniffing dogs do.

"Think of it as an electronic dog's nose that would run 24/7," said Gregory, a chemical engineering professor.

Homeland Security created a center of excellence for explosives experts to collaborate and improve the nation's response to threats, called the ALERT, or Awareness and Localization of Explosives-Related Threats, Center.

Gregory's work is fairly mature, and a commercial partner will probably want to invest, said ALERT Center Director Michael Silevitch.

"You can't have a dog everywhere," Silevitch said. "The more we can screen vulnerable targets, the better off we're going to be."

The sensor measures the energy that's released as a molecule as an explosive breaks down. Nanowires in the sensor act as a catalyst to cause that decomposition so the explosive can be detected. The system also measures the electrical properties of the catalyst as it interacts with the explosive vapor, as a second check.

It detects both nitrogen-based and peroxide-based explosives, Gregory said. He envisions it being affixed inside a Jetway or an entrance to a nightclub, stadium, subway or other public space, triggering an alarm if explosives are detected.

The first prototype would cost roughly $1,000 to $2,000, Gregory said. He's working on a hand-held version he estimates would cost several hundred dollars, and he's talking with companies interested in licensing it.

A Homeland Security spokeswoman said she couldn't comment on the project until it's complete.

Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, leads the agency's ALERT Center. The University of Rhode Island is a partner. Gregory receives $80,000 to $100,000 annually for his sensor research through the center.

Jimmie Oxley, the technical lead at URI for the center, said there's nothing exactly like it on the market today. A spokesman for Smiths Detection in London, a leading designer and manufacturer of sensors that detect and identify explosives, confirmed Gregory's technique is different than its own systems.

Life & Style

Chinese community holds Lunar New Year Gala

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI held a Lunar New Year Gala last Sunday, Feb. 14, where around 300 of their members joined the celebration at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

The Lunar New Year signals the end of winter and the start of spring that's why it is also known as the Spring Festival. It is the most important festival among the traditional Chinese holidays.

The event took place more than two weeks after they adorned Paseo de Marianas with red-colored lanterns and one day after the joint Lunar New Year celebrations of the Chinese and Korean communities.

It is also the first time that CAS invited Chinese performers from Beijing to provide entertainment for the Lunar New Year Gala, which has united the Chinese community on Saipan for more than 25 years.

The traditional lion dance opened the festivities to provide blessing to all. The lion is considered a guardian and wards off evil spirits according to Chinese tradition.

Students at the Chinese Education Center, after the formal introduction of the night's special guests and CAS board members, performed the songs *Good Luck* and *Grateful Heart* then recited the Disciple Gauge and poetry from the Tang dynasty.

CAS vice president Anna Chan, former president Rose Chan, and Annette Ta gave away lucky red packets or *lai see* to all the kids present. Girls also performed a hula dance.

Guo Fangyu performed traditional and modern magic aside from the *bian lian* or the face changing show, while Monique Mason performed a Tibetan dance. Wei Wen Xuan performed the Chinese yo-yo Diabolo.

Guo and Wei were both members of the Chinese Magic Circus from Hebei province. They and Mason were among the performers in the 2008 Beijing Olympics opening ceremony.

Chinese Education Center students performed the *Moonlight with Lotus* dance, while Geng Bei, a former music professor in Beijing but now lives on Saipan, sang *Moon Lover*. Li Mei and Wang Guolong performed *Roar of the Ocean* in their kung fu show.

The year 2016 is the Year of the Monkey, the ninth animal sign on the Chinese zodiac's 12-year cycle with fire as the element. One of the five elements—earth, fire, metal, water, and wood—is always associated with a Chinese zodiac animal sign.

The Chinese zodiac identifies those who are born under the Year of the Monkey as adventurous, ambitious, and optimistic.

CAS also thanked various companies that donated gifts and other raffle prizes that were given away during the party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Chinese Association of Saipan, CNMI members prepare to celebrate the Lunar New Year Gala last Sunday, Feb. 14, where around 300 of their members joined the celebration at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Face changing magician Guo Fangyu captivated the audience.

Monique Mason performs a Tibetan dance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, seated second right, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, seated left, were the special guests of the night.

The traditional lion dance opened up the festivities.

Island-themed performances also took center stage.

Chinese Education Center students serenade the crowd with traditional songs.

Cosby sues sex-assault accuser, lawyer for contract breach

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby has filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit against a woman whose 2005 sexual-assault accusation led to his recent arrest.

The lawsuit, filed a day before a key hearing in the criminal case against Cosby, names accuser Andrea Constand, her lawyer, her mother and the publisher of the National Enquirer.

The lawsuit remained under seal Wednesday, and Cosby's lawyers declined to comment on the nature of the allegations in it.

However, the defendants were all subject to confidentiality clauses that covered the settlement of lawsuits that Constand filed against Cosby and the tabloid, published by Boca Raton, Florida-based American Media Inc., in 2005.

Constand accused Cosby of drugging and molesting her at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Her complaint wasn't prosecuted at the time, but new prosecutors reopened it last year and arrested Cosby in December, just before the 12-year statute of limitations expired. As part of their investigation, they interviewed Constand and her mother and obtained files from her lawyer.

Dozens of other women in recent years have come forward and accused Cosby of sexual impropriety spanning decades. Cosby, who played Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" from 1984 to 1992 and has been married for decades, has denied the women's accusations. The statute of limitations has expired in most of the cases against him.

Cosby filed the breach-of-contract lawsuit against Constand a day before a Feb. 2 criminal court hearing that included testimony from her lawyer, Dolores Troiani. Troiani mentioned at the hearing that Cosby had sued her but did not elaborate.

The judge warned Cosby's lawyers not to accuse Troiani of breaking the confidentiality agreement through her testimony because she had received a subpoena to testify about her involvement in the case.

Cosby sought the hearing to explore whether he had a promise from the prior district attorney that he would never be charged over the encounter with Constand, who was then a basketball team employee at Temple University, his alma mater. The judge rejected his bid to have the criminal case dismissed.

Cosby is scheduled for a preliminary hearing on the felony case on March 8. The 78-year-old entertainer could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Troiani declined to comment on Cosby's lawsuit. It was unclear who represents American Media, and after-hours telephone calls to its New York office went unanswered.

In this Sept. 17, 2015, file photo, U.S. actress Angelina Jolie Pitt poses for a photo with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. AP

Jury acquits Ohio man of stalking Gwyneth Paltrow

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury acquitted an Ohio man on Wednesday of stalking Gwyneth Paltrow after prosecutors said he sent her dozens of unsolicited letters and gifts in recent years.

The case against Dante Soiu, 66, was the second in which he was accused of stalking the actress.

The Columbus native was committed to a mental institution in the early 2000s after he was accused of sending lewd messages and sex toys to the actress and found not guilty by reason of insanity.

The jury of six men and six women began deliberations on Tuesday in the latest case.

They heard from a variety of witnesses, including Paltrow, who described the fear she felt after learning Soiu was writing to her again.

One letter described Paltrow "bowing to death," a reference the actress found disturbing. In another, Soiu wrote: "I have a goal: to marry Gwyneth Paltrow and take care of her."

Soiu also testified at the trial, telling jurors he was a changed man who continued to write to Paltrow because he wanted her forgiveness for his earlier messages.

Jury foreman Ryan Austin said jurors found Paltrow and Soiu were credible witnesses, but the panel ultimately had doubts that Soiu intended to frighten the actress.

He said the jury thought Soiu's conduct was reprehensible, especially in light of the previous pornographic messages to the actress, but didn't amount to felony stalking.

None of Soiu's recent correspondence to Paltrow included lewd messages or sex toys.

Austin, a civil attorney, said it seemed reasonable that Paltrow would be afraid of Soiu, but his recent correspondence seemed to be love letters and proselytizing rather than a serious threat to the Oscar-winning actress.

Soiu's lawyer Lynda Westlund said during the trial her client was a Christian who was writing to Paltrow in an attempt to minister to her. The lawyer also noted Soiu hadn't recently traveled to try to meet Paltrow, as he did in 1999.

Westlund said Wednesday she was thrilled for Soiu, who would be released later in the day and return to Ohio. Westlund said she does not believe he poses a threat to Paltrow, but she will advise him not to write any more letters to public figures.

Soiu's testimony was crucial to showing that he had a calm demeanor and wasn't an angry man, she said.

Paltrow cried last week when a prosecutor asked her on the witness stand whether Soiu's writings made her fear for the safety of her children.

"I felt very upset by it. It defied logic, and I found it very, very upsetting," Paltrow said. "This was something I had been through a very long and traumatic experience with already."

Soiu said he was looking to make amends with Paltrow and had abandoned his desire to marry her since his arrest.

"I was very lonely," Soiu said. "I wanted to have a pen pal."

He also said he never intended to scare the actress or physically harm her.

The recent batch of letters also described a pair of earrings he sent her in 2009 as a Christmas gift, some second-hand clothes and a Weight Watchers cookbook. He has also sent her religious books and forwarded her letters that he sent to President Barack Obama and actress Angelina Jolie.

Paltrow, 43, won an Oscar in 1999 for her role in "Shakespeare in Love." She has two children with estranged husband Chris Martin, frontman of the band Coldplay.

AP Interview: Angelina Jolie returns to Cambodia as director

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AP)—Between bites of spicy Cambodian curry and fried fish with rice, Angelina Jolie Pitt explains how this tiny country with a tumultuous past changed the course of her life.

She first visited Cambodia 16 years ago to portray "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider"—the gun-toting, bungee-jumping, supremely toned action hero that made her a star. Soon after, she adopted her first child from a Cambodian orphanage and returned again and again on humanitarian missions. Now, she's back for another movie but this time as a director, and the subject matter is a far cry from Lara Croft.

"First They Killed My Father," is based on a Khmer Rouge memoir written by survivor Loung Ung that recounts the 1970s Cambodian genocide from a child's perspective. The film, which she is directing and co-wrote with Ung for Netflix, is in Khmer, with an all-Cambodian cast and according to Jolie Pitt "the most important" movie of her career. During a break from filming, she talked to The Associated Press about how, more than ever, she feels a satisfying symbiosis between her life and work.

In person, Jolie Pitt is engaging and down-to-earth, dressed in a T-shirt and long black skirt, her hair pulled into a casual bun. She goes out of her way to play down her celebrity, hopping into the back of an SUV and squeezing into the middle seat beside a reporter for a short drive from the set to the crew's outdoor lunch tents. She is relaxed and articulate as the conversation veers from acting and directing, to history, humanitarian work, motherhood and her special relationship to Cambodia.

"When I first came to Cambodia, it changed me. It changed my perspective. I realized there was so much about history that I had not been taught in school, and so much about life that I needed to understand, and I was very humbled by it," said the 40-year-old Jolie Pitt, who grew up in Los Angeles where she felt "a real emptiness."

In this Dec. 30, 2015 file photo Bill Cosby, center, accompanied by his attorneys Brian McMonagle, left, and Monique Pressley, arrives at court to face a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault, in Elkins Park, Pa. AP

She was struck by the graciousness and warmth of Cambodian people, despite the tragedy that left an estimated 2 million people dead. While shooting Lara Croft in 2000, some scenes required sidestepping land mines, she said, which made her aware of the dangers refugees face in countries ravaged by war. "That trip triggered my realization of how little I knew and the beginning of my search for that knowledge."

It prompted her to contact the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees to learn about the agency's work before joining as a goodwill ambassador in 2001. She was then given an expanded role as Special Envoy in 2012.

It was during an early trip back to Cambodia with the U.N. that Jolie had another epiphany—this time about motherhood.

"It's strange, I never wanted to have a baby. I never wanted to be pregnant. I never babysat. I never thought of myself as a mother," Jolie, now famously a mother of six, says with a laugh. But while playing with children at a Cambodian school, "it was suddenly very clear to me that my son was in the country, somewhere."

She adopted Maddox in 2002, and a year later opened a foundation in his name in northwestern Battambang province, which helps fund health care, education and conservation projects in rural Cambodia.

Maddox is now 14 and sporting what his mom calls "a blonde stripe"—a shaggy mohawk with the top dyed blonde. He joined her in Cambodia to help behind the scenes for the project that she sees as a unique merger of her film work and family with humanitarian interests.

"For me, this is the moment, where finally my life is kind of in line, and I feel I'm finally where I should be," Jolie Pitt said.

Her fondness for Cambodia is mutual, according to the country's most celebrated filmmaker Rithy Panh, who says "First They Killed My Father" will be the first Hollywood epic filmed in Cambodia about the country's genocide—a sign that the government trusts her to respectfully revisit the horrors of the past.

Fiennes defends playing Michael Jackson, colorblind casting

NEW YORK (AP)—Joseph Fiennes is defending himself in the wake of criticism after being cast as Michael Jackson in an upcoming half-hour TV special, acknowledging the topic is "sensitive" but never intending it to be divisive.

The white actor will play the King of Pop in the upcoming Sky Arts comedy "Elizabeth, Michael, and Marlon," which tells the story of a road trip taken by Jackson, Marlon Brando and Elizabeth Taylor as they flee New York City after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"I deal in imagination, so I don't think imagination should have rules stamped on them," Fiennes told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "If it promotes stereotyping, then it's wrong. I made a distinction that the Jackson project doesn't do that."

The casting of Fiennes comes as controversy rages over the lack of diversity in the Oscar nominations and in the film industry at large. The actor admitted to being initially surprised by the colorblind casting. "It was a shock. I thought someone had got it wrong."

But the "Shakespeare in Love" actor said he loves a challenge, providing it's in good taste.

"This is territory that is sensitive. One must determine if this portrayal is one that is going to be positive entertainment, and one that will not bring about division and put anyone's noses out of joint, so I went with the mind that this was a positive light-hearted comedy," Fiennes said.

"This is not a movie; it's a small television 20-minute sketch. It's a very sweet comedy that looks at Michael, Marlon and Taylor," Fiennes said. The actor admits if it were anything more, "I wouldn't be the guy for the job."

Fiennes recounted an incident of discrimination he witnessed many years ago in England when a black actress was picked to play an iconic white woman.

AP

Actor Joseph Fiennes participates in AOL's BUILD Speaker Series to discuss the film, "Risen", at AOL Studios on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016, in New York.

Natalie Cole's sister disappointed with Grammy tribute

AP

In this March 2, 2015 file photo, singer Natalie Cole performs at "An Evening of SeriousFun Celebrating the Legacy of Paul Newman" in New York.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The sister of Natalie Cole said she was disappointed by the Recording Academy's tribute to the late singer during Monday's 58th annual Grammy Awards.

The telecast featured a clip from the 1992 Grammys performance of Natalie Cole singing in sync with her father, Nat King Cole, who appeared in video, at the conclusion of the "In Memoriam" tribute to musicians and artists who died in the previous year.

Timolin Cole told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the producer of the award show, Ken Ehrlich, told the family of their plans to memorialize the singer who died on New Year's Eve at the age of 65.

"We envisioned some kind of a tribute that isolated her that had some sort of significant time allotted for it," Timolin Cole said Wednesday. "It was just not reflective of her stature."

Representatives for the Recording Academy did not immediately responded to email and phone messages requesting comment. Ehrlich told Billboard that he was taken aback by the family's complaints and said he believed the tribute was appropriate.

Cole said she doesn't want to take away from the other musicians who were given tributes that night, including B.B. King, Glenn Frey and David Bowie. But she said there was no dialogue mentioning her sister's four-decade career that earned her nine Grammy Awards, and the tribute felt like "an afterthought."

"There were major tributes and major acknowledgements that were done and our sister was basically shoved into a cluster of artists at the end on a small screen," Cole said.

Original 1929 Oscar cast to make statuettes awarded in 2016

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The statuettes for the upcoming Academy Awards are based on an original Oscar from 1929.

The film academy announced Tuesday that a New York foundry is restoring features of the original design to the Oscar statuettes for 2016 using digital scans and 3-D printers.

It took Polich Tallix Fine Art Foundry three months to make the 50 statuettes needed for the Feb. 28 ceremony using the high-tech process. Oscar was previously made in a more traditional way by Chicago's R.S. Owens & Company, the academy's foundry for the past 34 years.

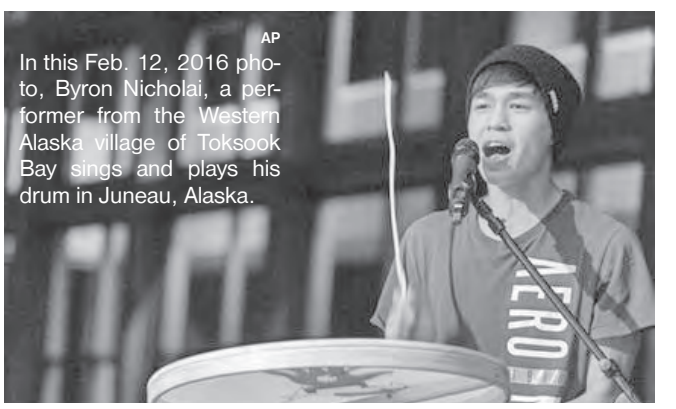
Oscar is still plated in 24-karat gold. Oscar's dimensions remain the same: He's 13 Ω-inches tall and weighs 8 Ω pounds. And he's still just as hard to get.

Alaska's Bieber: Yup'ik Eskimo singer gains online following

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—He could be considered the Justin Bieber of Alaska.

Teen Internet sensation Byron Nicholai is a Yup'ik Eskimo from Toksook (TUCK'-sook) Bay, a tiny community on Nelson Island just off Alaska's mainland in the Bering Sea. It's about 525 miles west of Anchorage.

The 17-year-old high school senior performs songs that blend traditional Yup'ik and English. He has more than 22,000 followers on the Facebook page "I Sing. You Dance," where he posts videos of himself singing and drumming.



AP

In this Feb. 12, 2016 photo, Byron Nicholai, a performer from the Western Alaska village of Toksook Bay sings and plays his drum in Juneau, Alaska.

Last weekend, Nicholai performed at the University of Alaska Southeast campus in Juneau as part of a program that prepares indigenous teachers for Alaska's schools.

He told the audience his drumming allows him to share the culture of his village, which has about 600 residents.

Teen daughter's sex life reveals parental discord

DEAR ABBY: My 16-year-old perfect kid came to us, very adult-like, saying it was time for her to go on the pill. We knew she had a boyfriend, but didn't realize it was this serious.

Despite my initial impulse to kill him and stick my daughter in a convent, we discussed it as a family and agreed she would see a gynecologist. She also had a long talk with her mother about sex, and with me a few days later. When I sat down alone with her she was embarrassed, but I don't care—I'm her father.

Fast forward to last week: She left her iPad in the living room, and while I was using it, up popped explicit pictures of her not only with her boyfriend, but with other guys and girls. Her mother and I talked about how to handle this. I suggested therapy and pulling her from school. My wife disagreed. She accused me of violating our daughter's personal property and said it's none of my business!

I may be old-fashioned, but my daughter, whom I love more than life, needs to know this is not OK. She's still a child despite looking like an adult, and as a child, she needs guidance. Am I wrong? Do you have any resources for me on handling my daughter's sexual impulses?

CONCERNED DAD IN SANTA CLARA

DEAR CONCERNED DAD: To pull your daughter out of school or send her to a psychotherapist would be an overreaction. Her sexual impulses are normal. Although I agree she needs guidance, that guidance should come from you and your wife.

As to your "violating your daughter's personal property," I'm glad you saw what was on the tablet and your wife should be as well. The kind of photos you describe can cause big problems for teenaged girls. If her relationship with her boyfriend sours, those pictures can wind up on the Internet to be viewed for all time.

Colleges and prospective employers have been known to scour the Internet looking for these kinds of postings when interviewing students and job seekers. What may seem like innocent fun now could cause her big headaches a few years down the line, and your daughter needs to know it.

DEAR ABBY: I work the front desk at a small hotel in the middle of nowhere. I love my job. My boss and co-workers are amazing, and we are like a big family.

Recently, while I was working the graveyard shift, I was held up at gunpoint and robbed. Going to work still scares me, and I'm anxious the entire time.

Should I seek counseling and stay with this job to see if my anxiety lessens, or find another one where I won't have to deal with cash? I'm terrified of this happening again, since the thief got away with it.

JUST DON'T SHOOT

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR JUST DON'T SHOOT: You should definitely seek counseling because of the trauma you experienced. Some states offer it as part of a victims assistance program, but if yours does not, then you will have to get it privately through your health insurance or your employer's. After you have had some sessions, you will then be in a better position to decide whether to continue working at that hotel.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'M HOME!
DID YOU FEED HOBBES TODAY, MOM?
NO, DEAR, IT MUST HAVE SLIPPED MY MIND.
THANKS, MOM. YOU WANNA JUST DOUSE ME IN STEAK SAUCE BEFORE I GO TO MY ROOM?

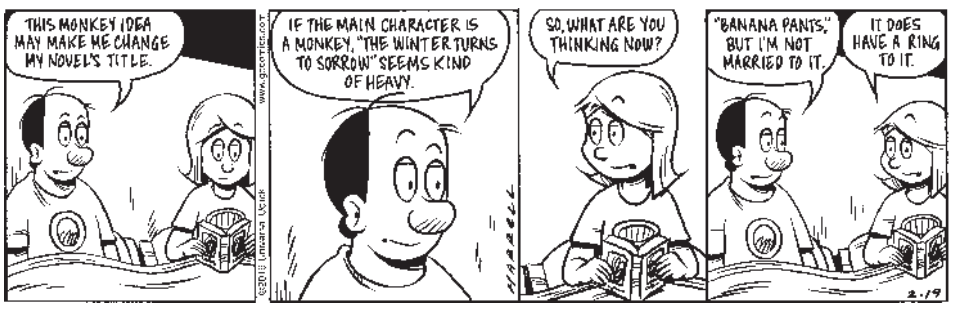
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I COULD NEVER BE A SUPER-HERO BECAUSE I DON'T LOOK GOOD IN TIGHTS
THAT'S THE REASON?
ARE YOU SAYING I DO LOOK GOOD IN TIGHTS?
PLEASE DON'T ENCOURAGE HIM!

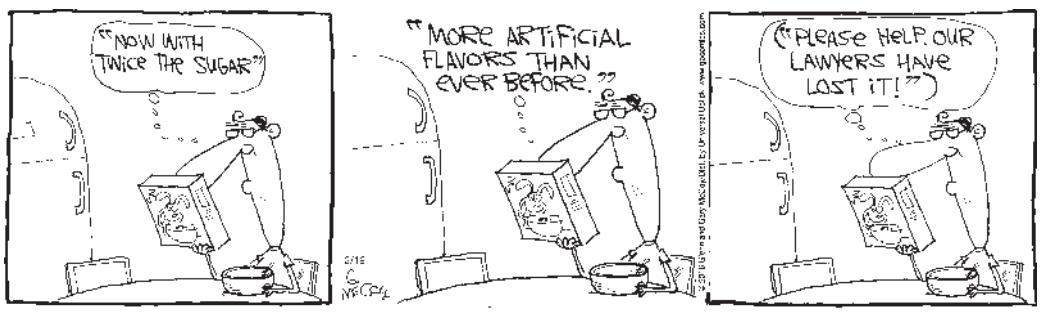
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS MONKEY IDEA MAY MAKE ME CHANGE MY NOVEL'S TITLE.
IF THE MAIN CHARACTER IS A MONKEY, "THE WINTER TURNS TO SORROW" SEEMS KIND OF HEAVY.
SO, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING NOW?
"BANANA PANTS," BUT I'M NOT MARRIED TO IT.
IT DOES HAVE A RING TO IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

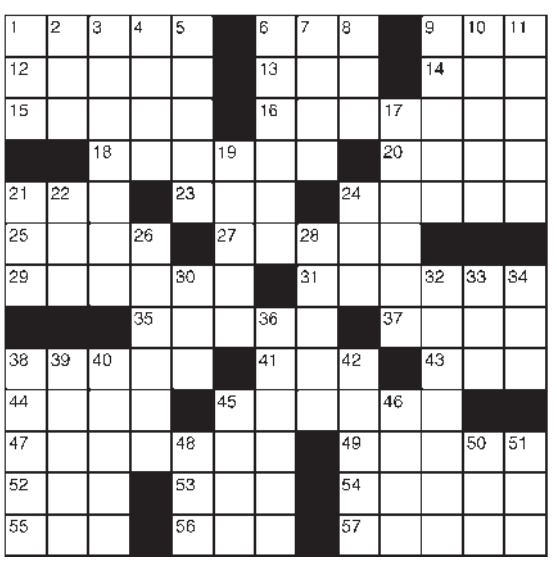
1 "The Thinker" sculptor
6 Abysmal
9 Golfer Ernie
12 React to reveille
13 Author Umberto
14 Parcel of land
15 Observes Lent
16 Clam-bake's kin
18 Fast car
20 "— kleine Nacht-musik"
21 Capita lead-in
23 Knight's address
24 Trig terms
25 Slightly
27 Techies, stereo-typically
29 Capital of Croatia
31 Boob
35 Pharaoh's land
37 Beget
38 "— man put asunder"
41 City area, for short
43 Blue
44 Baldwin of "Aloha"
45 Santa's ride
47 Chess-men
49 Equip anew
52 Immi-grant's course (Abbr.)
53 Churchill gesture
54 Disarming event?
55 Meadow
56 Billboards
57 Spiral

DOWN

1 U.K. fliers
2 Man-mouse link
3 Plate cleaner
4 Analogy words
5 Egg holders
6 Prior to
7 Battery fluid
8 Two, in Toledo
9 Spritelike
10 "SNL" producer Michaels
11 Eyelid woes
17 Stickup jobs
19 Beatles' "Eleanor —"
21 La —, Bolivia
22 Greek H
24 Enjoy Vail
26 Saturate
28 Strictly — nous
30 Swelled head
32 Type of thinking
33 A Gersh-win brother
34 Actor Danson
36 Signs of life
38 Tag
39 Beetho-ven's "Für — "
40 Inventor Nikola
42 Nativity
45 Raced
46 "Chicago" actor Richard
48 Eggs
50 Here, in Dijon
51 — -Mex cuisine

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Benicio Del Toro, 49; Seal, 53; Jeff Daniels, 61; Smokey Robinson, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take on only what you think you can handle and try to keep the momentum flowing. Turn this into a high-paced year that can move you up a notch personally, professionally and toward improved self-awareness and physical health. Take the initiative and jump at any opportunities that give you a chance to follow a long-held dream. Your numbers are 2, 7, 19, 24, 32, 38, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Check out an exciting financial opportunity. Look over a contract or offer your services in an innovative new way. Bring about change, but do so for the right reasons, not because of an emotional incident. Love is highlighted. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look beyond a situation that arises with someone you deal with daily. It's better to take a cautious approach instead of one that could lead to discord. Learn from your experiences and you will improve your position at home or at work. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Taking a stance will put you in a unique but controversial position. Show kindness and consideration along with intelligence and you will diminish any chance for someone to outdo you. Keep it simple and classy and you will get where you want to go. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make personal alterations at home that will give you the space you require to do something you enjoy. Greater enthusiasm will help you take on a physical challenge and come out ahead. Make choices based on facts and you will excel. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll come up with an unusual way to bring in some extra cash if you make a change to the way you spend or live your life. Make personal alterations that reduce your overhead and eliminate the need for ongoing maintenance. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Participate, get physically active and do something that will motivate you to make your voice heard. Be creative and make a point to suggest alternatives that will separate you from the crowd. Take a positive step forward. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be careful when dealing with the people you live with or matters concerning your home. Choose your words wisely and express your feelings with affection and kindness. Positive changes can be made if you go about things the right way. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take care of personal matters and you will be offered favors that can help you take on new endeavors. Refuse to let what someone else says strike an emotional chord that will cause you to act regrettably. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Do what you can without running up expenses. Make choices based on solid information, not emotions or unrealistic assumptions. Someone from your past will offer you an interesting alternative. Romance will help you become a better person. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Treat others with respect and offer realistic solutions, but don't take on responsibilities that will drag you down or stand in your way. An unusual offer will be a turning point in your life. Celebrate your success with your loved ones. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take care of your responsibilities before you do anything else. You'll avoid a dispute if you wrap everything up thoroughly. Be upfront about your choices and what you want to pursue. Take control instead of letting yourself be controlled. Make your life count. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful what you wish for. Getting recognition for the wrong reasons can be difficult to handle if it involves institutions or authority figures. Stick to the truth and play by the rules. Focus on children, family and good times. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are productive, encouraging and unique. You are precise and well-liked.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5						6	
4			2 7		8 5			9
	2	7				1	5	
	3	1				7	2	
5			3 8		9 1			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	6	2	1	3	9	5	4
4	1	5	9	7	6	8	2	3
3	9	2	8	5	4	6	1	7
1	2	9	3	6	8	7	4	5
5	6	3	4	2	7	1	9	8
7	4	8	5	9	1	3	6	2
6	8	4	1	3	2	5	7	9
9	3	7	6	4	5	2	8	1
2	5	1	7	8	9	4	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

"THE BIG SHORT" (FILM) Solution: 8 letters

A	I	T	T	E	N	N	E	V	I	N	N	Y	G	E
C	N	E	B	A	N	K	I	M	A	G	A	R	O	I
E	H	U	M	J	A	H	S	I	M	A	H	D	S	M
M	K	A	A	O	I	S	E	L	A	B	L	R	L	A
H	A	R	R	H	T	T	N	O	O	A	E	L	I	J
E	E	R	U	L	S	E	Z	M	T	W	A	H	N	W
D	B	E	I	B	I	V	O	I	O	P	T	S	G	I
G	U	L	M	A	R	E	P	L	S	N	N	S	P	T
E	R	L	A	U	H	A	F	R	Y	A	N	T	E	T
F	R	E	D	M	C	N	Y	C	I	P	I	T	T	R
U	Y	G	A	N	E	C	D	J	S	C	F	E	E	O
N	A	R	O	D	A	R	B	A	O	E	K	L	R	C
D	K	I	I	R	Y	E	L	P	I	H	S	E	Y	K
Y	C	A	T	S	T	N	I	O	P	T	N	O	R	F
S	M	I	C	H	A	E	L	L	E	R	A	C	M	T

©2018 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/19

Adam, Aiden, Bale, Bank, Baum, Brad, Burke, Burry, Carell, Charlie, Christian, Cynthia, Eisenzopf, Finn, Flowers, Front Point, Geller, Gosling, Hamish, Hedge Fund, Jamie, Jared, John, Letts, Magaro, Maria, Mark, McKay, Michael, Moses, Peter, Pitt, Ryan, Scion Capital, Shauna, Shipley, Spall, Stacy, Steve, Tomei, Tracy, Vennett, Vinny, Wittrock, Rickert

Yesterday's Answer: Corona

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Please submit resume to email address: sinogreatwallcnmi@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Full time accountant position, responsible for providing accounting services such as recording, examining, estimating, recommend, advice, analyze and interpreting accounting records through the use of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Position includes both administrative and accounting goals, the financial plans to meet those goals, supervising the work of accounting staff to ensure timely filings of financial and tax reports. Qualifications: Bachelor Degree in Accounting or its equivalent; must be a U.S. Certified Public Accountant (foreign equivalent license is acceptable); at least two (2) years experience in general accounting work.

Send Resume: David L. Bush, General Manager, Hawaiian Rock Products, PMB 139, PPP P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; by facsimile (670) 288-0408; or by e-mail to dbush@hawaiianrock.com

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Tick tock: Clock is winding down to trade deadline

NEW YORK (AP)—The Detroit Pistons and Charlotte Hornets are on the board, not waiting until the NBA's trade deadline on Thursday to make moves they hope will bolster their playoffs chances this season.

The Pistons acquired scorer Tobias Harris from Orlando while the Hornets added Courtney Lee from Memphis to help fill the void created by the injury to Charlotte forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. In a deadline-driven league, both moves were aggressive in that they came well before the 3 p.m. Eastern time cutoff for trades to be made.

They also may serve as catapults for other teams out there shopping. The time is nearing for teams that have held cards tightly to their chests to start putting them on the table.

There are several issues teams are considering this week as they mull making significant trades. Among them is the sheer dominance of the Golden State Warriors, who have established themselves as the favorites to win the championship again this season.

As teams went into the All-Star break, there was a feeling across the league that the Spurs, Cavaliers and Thunder may be the only teams equipped to challenge the defending champions for the title. That thought process may cause several other teams just outside of that foursome to play it a little more conservatively when it comes to trades.

The Pistons and Stan Van Gundy didn't let that stop them from acquiring Harris, figuring that adding the cost certainty of the three years remaining on his deal would help them shape their vision going forward rather than look at the unknowns of free agents added this summer.

Free agency is another huge factor that will influence teams with the trade deadline looming; it's shaping up to be a free agency bonanza in July.

With a sky-rocketing salary cap, the majority of teams in the NBA will have enough cap room to add at least one max-contract player to their rosters this summer. That will create a frenetic push for the top tier of free agents, including Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant, Detroit center Andre Drummond and Toronto guard DeMar DeRozan.

So making a deal now to add an impact player, while difficult to pull off, could help a team avoid having to go all-in next summer.

Here are some of the more intriguing teams to watch headed into Thursday's trade deadline:

ATLANTA HAWKS: Last year's feel-good season has given way to a more sober 2015-16, with a 31-24 record good for fourth in the East and the sense that they have to make a big move to vault back into contention with Cleveland and Toronto. They could be the most likely candidate to part with a key piece to make that happen, with Al Horford and Jeff Teague among the players that have been mentioned as possible trade bait.

BOSTON CELTICS: GM Danny Ainge has spent the last few years accumulating assets—perhaps most attractive is Brooklyn's unprotected first-round draft choice this June —to put him in position to make a Godfather offer to a team for one of its established stars. Now that the Celtics are a surprising 32-23 and sitting at No. 3 in the East, the time to give superb coach Brad Stevens the star he has been looking for could be right now.

AP
Atlanta Hawks guard Jeff Teague (0) drives to the basket past Chicago Bulls center Pau Gasol (16) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016, in Chicago.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS: They have seemed to find their groove lately, oddly enough while star forward Blake Griffin has been out because of a quad injury and a suspension for punching an assistant equipment manager. Despite all the drama, coach and GM Doc Rivers said on Tuesday that Griffin would not be traded. But Rivers still wants to upgrade his bench and add some more scoring punch to give them every chance possible to come out of the rugged West.

TORONTO RAPTORS: Coach Dwane Casey's crew has done a remarkable job absorbing key injuries to remain as the No. 2 seed in the East. DeRozan and Kyle Lowry give them one of the best backcourts in the league and the hope is DeMarre Carroll will back with a month or so to go in the regular season to gear up for the playoffs. They are looking to add another ball-handler off the bench and a power forward that can stretch the defense with his shooting in hopes of avoiding another early playoff exit.

MIAMI HEAT: Chris Bosh has resumed taking blood thinners to treat a blood clot, the same condition that caused him to miss the final 30 games of last season. Bosh is hopeful to play again this season, but the uncertainty surrounding the situation could prompt the Heat to look for ways to bolster the roster around Dwyane Wade and Goran Dragic, both over 30 years old.

HOUSTON ROCKETS: One of the biggest disappointments in the league this season and with one of the most active dealmakers in the league in GM Daryl Morey is a combination that makes the Rockets an easy candidate for this list. Dwight Howard's name continues to surface in reports about possible deals as Morey looks to make changes to build a roster that better meshes with ball-dominant guard James Harden.

Bruton hopes Denver's dominant defense can stay together

AURORA, Colo. (AP)—Safety David Bruton Jr., one of several Denver Broncos defenders set to become a free agent, wishes the NFL was more like the NBA.

"Teams such as Golden State, they get to keep everybody and try to set records, and I feel if we had the cap space we could do it," Bruton said after launching a reading program at Kenton Elementary School on Wednesday.

The defense that brought home Denver's third Lombardi Trophy with a 24-10 destruction of the Carolina Panthers could find itself unravelling in a few weeks.

Von Miller, the MVP of Super Bowl 50, is certain to get the franchise tag if the sides don't first agree to a deal somewhere in the $115 million range that would make the star pass rusher the highest-paid defender in the NFL.

Miller said he expects negotiations to be "peaceful." The Broncos do, too.

The last three times they used the franchise tag, on kicker Matt Prater, left tackle Ryan Clady and wide receiver Demaryius Thomas, they signed a long-term deal by the time training camp opened.

Several other key members of the league's best defense stand to get big bucks either from the Broncos or teams trying to unseat the champs.

They include leading tackler Danny Trevathan and defensive end Malik Jackson, both of whom had huge Super Bowl performances. And Bruton, a team captain and eighth-year pro coming off his best season although it ended with him on injured reserve with a broken right leg.

"We'd much rather have the tough decisions than the easy decisions because if you have the tough decisions, you have a lot of great players," GM John Elway said. "To try and keep this puzzle together is the challenge. It's going to be hard, but we look forward to it and think we can do it."

A big decision also looms at quarterback, where Peyton Manning is mulling retirement and Brock Osweiler can become a free agent March 9.

Bruton said Denver's defense provided Manning the perfect exit to a magnificent career, allowing him to ride off into that orange sunset a champion just like Elway did 17 years ago.

"I feel like that's the way to go out for sure. Super Bowl champion, you got two, now you tied your brother," said Bruton, adding the Broncos will be fine no matter who's under center next season.

"Either way, we'll have a great defense, so you can put some slappy back there and we'll be all right," Bruton added with a laugh.

Denver's defense stamped itself as one of the greatest ever, and should have the core to defend that title in 2016.

What helped sell Denver in the past was Manning in his prime and a willingness to spend top dollar. Elway's biggest selling points now are a proven track record: five consecutive AFC West titles, two Super Bowl trips, a star-studded roster, and a shot at greatness with back-to-back titles.

The cast is sure to change.

"In a perfect world, we'd love to stay together. But we know that the NFL is not a perfect world," Bruton said. "We know that it's a business and we know that there are going to be moving pieces. But we know that our year together was great and however our paths may end up, it's great knowing guys and great playing alongside those guys and hoisting up the Lombardi Trophy with those guys."

Bruton had 49 tackles, seven pass deflections, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and a sack in 13 games. He played 77 snaps at Pittsburgh on Dec. 20 after fracturing his right leg, which coach Gary Kubiak called a testament to his toughness. He kept an appointment for a community appearance the day he was placed on injured reserve, which Kubiak called a testament to his character.

Bruton hopes all those accolades lead to an offer to stay in Denver. He's seeking a deal like Arizona's Justin Bethel ($15 million over three years).

Bruton said he's 100 percent recovered from his injury and on the day of the Super Bowl, "I legit took myself through a whole practice." He said it was emotionally difficult not playing, but he understood the Broncos couldn't afford to wait for him to get healthy because Omar Bolden, Ward and Darian Stewart were also injured when he got hurt.

He said Elway approached him before kickoff and told him how much he regretted having to put him on IR, and how the Broncos sure could have used Bruton down the stretch.

"I know I could have played," said Bruton, who had the Super Bowl 50 logo tattooed onto his right rib cage. He's been fitted for his diamond-encrusted ring as he awaits the other spoils provided a champion.

McIlroy begins his road to the Masters

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The road to the Masters starts on the other side of the country for Rory McIlroy.

McIlroy has heard enough of Riviera that he decided to play the Northern Trust Open for the first time, and 27 holes over the last two days have left him convinced that it was a smart move and that it was worth it to add one more event to a busy schedule.

He is playing five of the next six weeks, and every field will be among the strongest in golf for this time of the year.

"I think the Masters at this point of the year is on pretty much everyone's mind," McIlroy said Wednesday. "You're building up to it. You've got some great events between now and then, but obviously I'd love my game to be in peak shape for Augusta in April."

McIlroy has played twice this year, a tie for third in Abu Dhabi and a tie for sixth in Dubai, and typically waits until the Florida swing to get into gear.

Instead, he tees it up Thursday off Sunset Boulevard with a field that has five of the top eight in the world, starting with Jordan Spieth at No. 1. The Honda Classic next week in Florida is expected to have a strong field, and then Doral will bring together the top three—Spieth, Jason Day and McIlroy—for the first time since September.

McIlroy also is scheduled to play at Bay Hill and then the Match Play for the top 64 in the world.

"It's going to be a great stretch of golf," he said. "I think the guys that are up at the top of the world rankings now, we like to play quite a bit. ... It's great to be able to play week in and week out against some of the best fields in the world. You want to challenge yourself, and you want to test yourself against the best that's out here.

"I think we'll see that happen here, and then obviously as we move into Florida."

Even so, Augusta is on his mind.

McIlroy had all the attention on him last year during the weeks leading to the Masters as the undisputed No. 1 player in the world going after a third straight major and a chance to complete the career Grand Slam.

Now he's one of three battling for No. 1 in the world.

McIlroy slipped back to No. 3 this week behind Day. When he won the Match Play last year, he told about a ritual of going to the Official World Golf Ranking website to see the size of his lead at No. 1. Now, he doesn't look at the ranking as much. He knows he's not No. 1.

AP

In this Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016 file photo, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland follows his ball on the 11th hole during 1st round of the Omega Dubai Desert Classic golf tournament in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The road to the Masters starts on the other side of the country for Rory McIlroy. McIlroy has heard enough of Riviera that he decided to play the Northern Trust Open for the first time, and 27 holes over the last two days have left him convinced that it was a smart move and that it was worth it to add one more event to a busy schedule, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016.

"I will check them. I saw that Jason overtook me last week," he said. "Need a cup of coffee to perk me up after it."

Given the strength of fields over the coming weeks, McIlroy has a chance to change that.

"It's still a big deal," McIlroy said. "Look, even if you're a player or a fan, anyone wants to know who the best golf is in the world. It's important to me. I'm not really competitive in much other things, but this I'm very competitive and want to try and get back there as fast I can."

So is Spieth, who has his own love affair with Riviera.

Spieth said he was torn between going to college at Texas or USC when he was in high school (he eventually chose Texas), and one of the perks of the Trojans was having a playing membership at Riviera while he was in college.

He played on an exemption as an amateur in 2012 and missed the cut when he missed a 10-foot par putt on the 18th hole. He was three shots behind going into the final round in 2014 until closing with a 71. And a year ago, he made bogey trying to make birdie, and it wound up keeping him out of a playoff.

Throw in the NCAA title that Texas won at Riviera in 2012, and Spieth figures he has played Riviera as much as any PGA Tour course outside the state of Texas.

"It's one of my favorites in the entire world," he said.

McIlroy sounded as though he was ready to join the fan club. James Hahn won last year in a playoff after he, Dustin Johnson and Paul Casey finished at 6-under 278. Only the U.S. Open last year (5 under) had a higher winning score to par.

"It's a real treat when you come to a golf course like this where it's not overly long, you don't have to really bomb it off the tee, but it's real strategic," McIlroy said. "You've got to place your ball on the right sides of the fairways. You have to make sure you hit it to the right side of the greens. You can't really get it above the pin. It's a real thinker's golf course, and it's a real treat to play something like this because we don't get to play them that often anymore."

Ronaldo ends road scoring drought in win at Roma

ROME (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo ended his away scoring drought with an impressive second-half goal as Real Madrid won 2-0 at Roma on Wednesday in the first leg of the Round of 16 in the Champions League.

The victory also marked a successful debut for Zinedine Zidane as Madrid's manager in the elite competition, with the 10-time champion taking a big step toward the quarterfinals.

It was Ronaldo's first goal on the road since Nov. 29, when he scored a penalty against Eibar.

"Everyone expects (Ronaldo) to score and today he was able to," Zidane said. "I'm happy for these two away goals and that we didn't concede any goals."

Shortly before the hour mark, Ronaldo collected a pass up the left flank from Marcelo, rapidly cut inside—moving the ball with a deft flick of his legs -- and launched a powerful shot that deflected off Roma fullback Alessandro Florenzi.

"He's a player against whom you can't concede anything. He can go right or left, it doesn't matter which way," Florenzi said. "I was also unlucky, because I deflected the shot and the ball went in right under the crossbar."

AP

Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo runs with the ball during a Champions League, round of 16, first-leg soccer match between Roma and Real Madrid, at the Rome Olympic stadium, Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016.

After scoring, Ronaldo ran toward Zidane and hugged the French great, who replaced Rafa Benitez last month.

Substitute Jese then sealed the victory with an angled shot four minutes from the end after Roma failed to take advantage of several opportunities for an equalizer.

At the final whistle, Zidane congratulated each of his players one by one, including those who didn't play.

"I do it because the team is the most important thing," said Zidane, who scored the winning goal for Madrid in the 2002 Champions League final against Bayer Leverkusen. "It's the players who make the difference and today it was Ronaldo—it's often him—but everyone's contribution is important, even those who don't play much. We win all together."

It was the 89th career goal in the Champions League for the three-time FIFA world player of the year—adding to his record haul—and his 12th this season.

The return leg is on March 8 in Madrid.

New Roma coach Luciano Spalletti, who replaced Rudi Garcia last month, wasn't too disappointed.

"We played a great match," Spalletti said. "We were just unfortunate on several chances and we're still conceding too much in defense."

Still, the scoreline was an improvement for Roma compared to recent encounters with European powers.

Roma was beaten 6-1 at Barcelona in November and fell 7-1 to Bayern Munich at home last season.

The Giallorossi also lost 7-1 at home to Manchester United in the 2007 quarterfinals —a match in which Ronaldo scored twice.

While Madrid controlled for long stretches Wednesday, Zidane's side had trouble finding the target until Ronaldo's goal.

The visitors' only significant chance in the first half was a long-distance volley from Marcelo that just missed the target shortly after the half-hour mark.

Roma relied on counterattacks and the speed of Mohamed Salah on the right flank, although it was Stephan El Shaarawy who had the better opportunities, chipping high in the 17th following a precise cross from newly-signed Diego Perotti.

El Shaarawy, who was recently loaned from AC Milan, also had a chance seconds before the break but was stopped by Raphael Varane just as he was about to shoot.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, struggled to make an impact early on, shooting a long free kick well wide for his only sight of goal in the first period.

Thundercats takes early division lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Thundercats moved on top of the lead in Division 2 of the 2016 M-League following a 2-1 win against the CNMI Women's National Team last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Timothy Tawanpiy and Peter Oh scored one goal apiece to lift the Thundercats to a 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record in the division and ahead of Shirley's FC (1-0-1), WNT (1-0-1), Sun Palace (0-1-0), World Resort (0-1-1), and Kanoa FC (0-0-1).

Tawanpiy put the Thundercats on the board in the 44th minute, while Oh got his goal in the 59th. Jeralyn Castillo drilled the lone goal for the WNT with her shot in the 63rd.

In other results in Division 2, Sun Palace and World Resort engaged in a scoreless draw, while Shirley's won via default against Kanoa FC.

In Division 1, MP United and Korean Football Association on Saipan won their spring season-opening games.

MP United eked out a 1-0 victory over Paire/Inter, thanks to Sun Joon Tenorio's goal in the 17th minute.

KFAS, on the other hand, cruised past Matansa, 5-0. Five different players scored in KFAS' rousing start with Ji Sung Cha drawing first blood in the 11th minute. KFAS earned one more goal in the first half, courtesy of Young Ju Lee in the 35th, while the last three came from Brian Lee (48th), Jong Gu Gil (62nd), and Edwin Kim (70th).

Meanwhile, four games will be played in Week 3 of the M-League. Tomorrow, the Thundercats, which downed World Resorts in its first game, 2-0, will go for win No. 3 against Kanoa at 4:30pm. Then on Sunday, the pairings will be Sun Palace vs Shirley's at 1:30pm, Matansa vs Tan Holdings at 3pm, and WNT vs World Resort at 4:30pm.

CHUO

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sions in a bid to get their first goal. After Koizumi's goal, Ryu Tanzawa and Joshua De Leon found themselves a few feet away from the left corner of the goal post and alternately attempted to kick the ball, but Chuo goalkeeper Kei Chiba stepped it and grabbed the leather.

With the missed opportunities, the Blue Ayuyus went back to play defense to prevent Chuo from scoring more goals, but the visiting squad would not be denied as they collected three more with the first one coming from Kazuhiro Kawakame in the 62nd minute. The second was from Kazumasa Otsuka in the 75th, while the last was made by Koizumi seven minutes later.

The loss to Chuo was the Blue Ayuyus' third in as many games this month and though they failed to win and score only one goal (against Aries FC), they are counting on the lessons they learned from the training matches.

"Coach Seki constantly reminded the players to treat the training match as if they are actual games in the EAFF tournament. They have to remain focus and keep their emotions in check," assistant coach Jersh Angeles said.

The Blue Ayuyus are preparing for the East Asian Football Federation East Asian Cup 2016 Preliminary Round 1 which will be held in July with the venue yet to be determined.

"The mistakes they committed in the three friendly games must be corrected. The friendly matches also gave as a clear picture on what we need work on more (defense, offense, and other aspects of the game) in our training session so we will be better prepared when we compete in the EAFF," Angeles added.

Meanwhile, the training pool will take a break this weekend and will resume their practice on Tuesday.

TENNIS

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U14 singles are also entered in the boys U12 division and will be joined by Seung Won Lee, Min Gi Jung, Seung Hyun Kim, Daniel Kang, Andrew Chung, Anthony Gregoire, Isaac Heo, Rintaro Miyawaki, and Richard Steele. Steele won the boys U12 singles crown in last weekend's Coconut Classic after prevailing against Kang in the finals and they may face again in the title match if they will survive the bottom and top half of the draws.

In the boys U16 singles, Michael Ren and Robbie Schorr are the Top 2 seeds and are already in the semis after getting byes. Schorr will challenge in the semis the winner in the Friday match between Vincent Tudela and Ken Song. Ren, on the other hand, waits for the victor of today's tiff between Steven Goodwin and Tony Kim.

Meanwhile, eight other events will be played in the opening week of the two-weekend tournament.

In the girls U16 singles, Carol Lee leads the field and will be battling the division crown against Asia Raulerson, Ami Tsukagoshi, Grace Choi, Mimi Sakano, and Tania Tan. In the U14, Malika Miyawaki is the early favorite and will be joined by Maria Gregoire, Rei Sekiguchi, Riko Ojima, Conatsu Kaga.

Conatsu's younger sister Coume is entered in the U12 singles along with Anika Camacho, Michelle Ryu, Thaileena Raulerson, and Erika Tuttle. Coume and Tuttle fought in the semifinals of last weekend's White Coconut Classic and they are likely to duel anew for the PIC title this weekend.

The five other events in the opening week of the annual tournament feature doubles contest.

In the highly competitive men's Open doubles, coaches Peter Loken and Jeff Race are teaming up and will be battling the division championship against the pairs of Goodwin and Tudela, Donn Dunlop and Raj Rai, Schorr and Kim, and Moris Villanueva and Dong Min Lee.

In the women's Open doubles, Negahr Rastguiy and Mikayla Lopez are at the top half of the draw along with the tandems of Miyawaki and Sakano and Marivic Rosario and Sally Lee, while the mother and daughter pair of Lydia and Tania Tan joins Carol Lee and Wendi Herring at the bottom half.

In the men's 3.0 doubles, father and son Randy and Richard Steele will face Keoni Ichihara and June Keller, while in the 4.0 doubles, it will be Dunlop and Nicky Nichols versus another father and son tandem in Gary and Colin Ramsey. In the women's 3.0 doubles, there are three teams. The list includes the Kaga siblings, Elly Lee and Miae Yoo, and Riko Ojima and Maaya Sato and they will play in a round-robin format.

AGAPE

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failed to make headway in the second half and mount a comeback, while Agape began using its bench players and got contributions from them to finish off the Geckos. Seven players of Agape coach Noel Puno made it to the team's box score at the end of the one-sided match, while only 4 SIS players nailed baskets for the host team.

Velasquez paced SIS with his 12 markers, while You chipped in 10 and Steven Goodwin and Henry Qian logged 3 and 2, respectively.

In the Agape-SCS tiff yesterday, the Tsunamis managed to keep up with the former only in the first quarter, as the Torchbearers led by 4, 13-9, after the first eight minutes of play.

Agape then started building a good lead in the second quarter, 30-11, en route to its seventh straight victory in the double-elimination regular season.

Cai top-scored for Agape with his 14 points, while Chen registered 12. Oliver Lee had 12 points to lead SCS.

The victory against SCS was Agape's second in as many games against the Susupe-based school as last Feb. 2, the division leaders notched a 31-23 triumph. With the win, Agape is three games away from sweeping the regular season.

Puno and his wards will gun for victory No. 8 on Tuesday against Mt. Carmel School, while their last two matches will be versus Seventh Day Adventist on Thursday and SIS on Feb. 29.

Agape 55 — Chen 19, Cai 11, S. Xu 6, Xiong 6, T. Xu 4, Guintu 3, Zhang 2, Lin 2, Du 2.

SIS 27 — Velasquez 12, You 10, Goodwin 3, Qian 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-6, 29-12., 45-20, 55-27.

CNMI-Japan Soccer College Friendly

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Kennedy Izuka, second right, surveys the pitch first before making a pass during their friendly game against Japan Soccer College last Tuesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

CNMI coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, standing left, gives instructions to his players during the halftime break.

The CNMI's John Diego Masga makes a throw-in.

The CNMI's Sun Joon Tenorio uses his knee to stop the ball.

Trey Dunn does a warm-up drill during the halftime break.

Japan Soccer College's Takumi Kimura kicks the ball, while being defended by the CNMI's Evan Belcher.

The CNMI's Joel Fruit,right, keeps an eye on Japan Soccer College's Kentero Tsuchiyo.

The CNMI's Joel Fruit, right, misses a header, while teammate Evan Belcher and Japan Soccer College's Takumi Kimura stay in the play.

Japan Soccer College's Ryogoku Funaba, 9, tries to beat the CNMI's Sun Joon Tenorio, 20, to the ball.

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Chuo shuts down Blue Ayuyus

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Chuo University Countrys handed the CNMI Men's National Team's training pool a 6-0 beating during their friendly game yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The visiting squad from Japan dominated possession, resulting to a lot of scoring opportunities and a lopsided win against the Blue Ayuyus. Chuo's goals began to come late in the first half as the Blue Ayuyus managed to hold their ground in the majority of the opening frame.

Hiroki Ando started things out for Chuo, as he scored in the 38th minute, while he also registered the team's other goal in the first half two minutes before the opposing squads headed to their respective benches for the halftime break.

In the second half, Chuo this time hit the board early courtesy off Yuto Koizumi's shot in the 47th minute.

With their foes threatening to pull away, the Commonwealth bets tried to tighten up their defense and at the same time attacked on a few occa-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Ryan Relucio, left, stays close on defense against Chuo University Countrys' Gen Kawamura, while John Diego Masga looks on during the second half of their friendly game yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Jr. players renew rivalry in PIC tennis

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Steven Goodwin returns to A.J. Hudkins during their boys U16 singles match in the 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the Pacific Islands Club early this month. Goodwin will be playing in this weekend's 16th PIC Tennis Championships.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rivals may collide anew this weekend as the 16th PIC Tennis Championships kick off at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Ji Min Woo and Seung Jin Paik, who squared off in the boys U14 singles finale in last weekend's 2016 White Coconut Tennis Classic with the former winning, may cross path anew as they lead the seven-player field in the same division of the PIC-sponsored event.

Woo is at the top half of the draw and automatically advanced to the semis after getting a bye in the opener. He will face in the semis the winner between Daniel Kang and Jack Jeoung, who will meet today at 5pm on Court. 2. At the bottom half of the draw, Paik is paired against Go Sekiguchi and they will also play today at 6:30pm on Court 3. The winner of the Paik-Sekiguchi tiff will march into the semis against the victor of the Daniel Heo-Sean Lee match, which is set at the same time on Court 1. The Final Four games are scheduled for Saturday.

The Top 2 seeds in the boys

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Agape Christian School's Dawei Cai pulls up for a jumper against two Saipan Community School defenders during the second quarter of their game in the middle school division of the COPSSA caging yesterday at the Agape court.

Agape extends streak to seven

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School stretched its streak to seven after downing two teams this week in the middle school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League.

The Torchbearers got victory No. 6 at the expense of Saipan International School last Tuesday, 55-27, and their seventh over Saipan Community School yesterday, 48-26.

The 1-2 punch of Haoyu Chen and Dawei Chan continued to shine for Agape as they scored in double figures in both wins.

Versus SIS at the Geckos court in As Lito, Chen tallied a game-high 19 points, while Cai chipped in 11.

Chen matched SIS's entire output in the first quarter to lift the Torchbearers to a 12-6 lead. Lue Xiong and Cai combined for the 6 other markers of Agape, while SIS drew 4 points from Seung Mock You and 2 from Marck Velasquez.

Chen kept going in the second period, adding 9 more points to increase Agape's advantage to twin digits, 29-12. Three other Torchbearers hit the board in the second frame to back up Chen, while SIS still had only Velasquez and You scoring for the Geckos.

As SIS continued to rely on You and Velasquez, it

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